

The Keynote

Newsletter of FISTS CW Club, the active chapter of the
International Morse Preservation Society



- Further the use of CW
- Encourage newcomers to use CW
- Engender friendships among members

“When You’ve Worked A FISTS, You’ve Worked A Friend”

Do you have a question? Look here first!

HOW DO I...?

***JOIN?** Membership is open to all interested in Morse code, irrespective of their speed and ability. Subscriptions = **\$15.00/year**. Under 17= **FREE** College Students = \$10. Family members may join FISTS at no extra charge-only one newsletter is mailed per household. **Send to FISTS, P. O. Box 47, Hadley, MI 48440**

NOTE: CHECKS can take 6-8 weeks to clear from the day received. Nancy processes them, updating the database, then takes them to the bookkeeper. The bookkeeper enters them into the "official books", then takes them to the bank. Depending on schedules that month, it can take 6-8 weeks. **Questions?** Write to nancy@tir.com Phone number is 810-797-2033.

***RENEW?** Send **\$15/year** or \$10/year for college students (under 17 and family members are free) to **FISTS, PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440-0047**. Your renewal date is on your mailing label — please look at it!! We send out ONE renewal postcard when your renewal time is near. If you've sent in your renewal but get a reminder postcard within a few weeks, please don't be concerned, the card probably crossed with your renewal.

*** GET A NUMBER FOR MY LOCAL CLUB?** Clubs with FCC callsigns may be assigned a FISTS number at no charge providing there is at least one FISTS member in good standing in the local club. These clubs are not legally affiliated with FISTS, nor does FISTS have anything to do with how the club is run, etc. It just means the club has a FISTS number and is worth three points toward awards. If the club wants a newsletter, there is a \$15 a year charge.

***PAY FOR THE SUBSCRIPTION OF A DX FISTS MEMBER?** Subs for European FISTS, paid from the USA, is \$10/year American cash. Non-European (Africa, Japan, etc.) FISTS are \$15/year in US CASH. No International Money Orders, postal money orders or personal checks, cash only. Send it to Geo Longden, 119 Cemetery Rd, Darwin Lancs BB3 2LZ U.K. Don't forget to include the name and address of the DX ham you want to sponsor. They will receive the DX version of the Keynote, which is written and mailed by Geo.

***SEND FISTS INFO TO A DX FISTS?** DX FISTS have a separate block of numbers; their Keynote is mailed from the UK. Send their info to Geo Longden, G3ZQS, at 119 Cemetery Rd, Darwin Lancs, BB3 2LZ England, he will get in touch with them and send them a DX application.

***SEND APPLICATION OR SAMPLE NEWSLETTER TO A North American FRIEND?** For a brochure, email Joe Pardue, w5os@arrl.net with their name, call sign, and postal address. For a sample Keynote, please send \$1 to defray postage. SASEs are appreciated. Joe's postal address is Joe Pardue, 29 Melrose Dr., Marrero LA 70072-5055. Applications are available for downloading on our FISTS Webpage <http://www.fists.org>.

***UPDATE MY ADDRESS or CALLSIGN ON THE FISTS DATABASE?** Send corrections or changes to NancyKott WZ8C at FISTS, PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440-0047. Please send labels with your corrections to the FISTS QSL Bureau so the bureau workers don't have to change all your SASEs by hand.

***GET AN UP-TO-DATE MEMBERLIST?** Send a SASE with \$2.00 to Ed Hayes, N7CFA 2628 Lilac Street, Longview WA 98632. Lists are available on the FISTS Web page, <http://www.fists.org>

***Get on the FISTS Email List?** For periodic Email updates send your Email address, callsign and FISTS number to Kathi Hilton at FISTS-Elist@attbi.com. Due to potential spam problems, the list is not given out to the membership and is not published on the web page. It is ONLY used to notify you of FISTS items of interest. If you want people to know your email address, we recommend you include it in your listing on QRZ.com or Buckmaster lookup service.

How Do Iis continued on the inner back cover

*** ORDER SUPPLIES? NEW PRICING STARTING FEBRUARY 2003:** Irene Kott, WO8E is our Supply Manager. Her address is 44609 N.Bunker Hill Dr, Clinton Twp, MI 48038. Our supplies are sold as close to cost as possible. Metallic gold logo stickers 200 for \$3.50;

NEW "I (heart) CW" 3/4 inch round stickers 200 for \$3.50.

"I Support KNOW Code" buttons for .50;

ISSUE 2 2003

NORTH AMERICAN MEMO

EDITOR: NANCY KOTT WZ8C

Net Information

Slow Traffic Net: Tuesday and Thursday 9PM EST on 3.682

Slow RagChewing Group: Wednesday at 9PM EST on 3.720

Volunteer Net Controls needed to run the Century Net on Sunday afternoon on 14.058 MHz

Saturday QSO Groups: 2000Z on 14.058 MHz and 7.058 MHz at 2300Z.

Sunday Slow Speed Chat: 21.158 MHz at 1700Z

Keep watch on the Novice subbands and frequencies ending in .x58 but PLEASE spread out. There have been over 9000 FISTS numbers issued. If we all try and chat on just these frequencies, all anyone will get is a lot of QRM. Please be courteous of nets and QSOs in progress and ask if the frequency is busy before calling CQ.

Courtesy At All Times!

Please note that FISTS subs rate hasn't gone up thru numerous postal hikes. Help us keep costs down by sending in your renewals early and letting Nancy, WZ8C know your address changes.

It costs FISTS 70 cents for each undelivered or forwarded Keynote due to address changes. This really adds up!

Hello FISTS! Let me start out by telling you about some changes that were made since Issue 1, 2003 went to print.

The big news is that NANFY has morphed into the NANFA - in other words, it is no longer a Nightmare Alpha-Numeric FISTS Yearly Award, it is a Nightmare Alpha-Numeric FISTS Award. After informally polling many FISTS members, it was the general consensus that getting the NANFY in a year was going to be darned near impossible. I want it to be an award that is fun and doable, so now it has no ending date. Work at your own pace and do some ragchewing along the way. And if you have a 'rare' number or letter, please get on the air. You'll make a lot of people happy and have some fun in the process - and make some new FISTS friends.

The other news is that Stan Reas, K4UK, who runs our QSL Bureau has changed his email address. It is k4uk@rev.net.

Both the February and March issues of The DX Key Note and the Down Under News are included in our Issue 2. Our North American Memo is printed ten times a year, the DX KN and the Down Under are printed

eleven times a year, so it's sort of a balancing act when it comes to the publishing dates.

Bill Pierpont, N0HFF, became a Silent Key at the age of 88. As many of you know, Bill Pierpont was the author of The Art and Skill of Radio-Telegraphy. His generous gesture of distributing this book freely on the Internet and published at no profit to himself, allowed this inspirational and educational publication to be enjoyed by hams all over the world. He made a major contribution to Amateur Radio and will be missed.

Mike Dinelli N9BOR is hard at work creating the 4th Edition of the book. It will have eight additional pages of text and some revisions that Bill made before his death.

We hope to have it available by the end of May. The price will be determined by the printing costs. I'll let you know the details as soon as I know.

Corrections for the Reference Issue:

9598. Tony's call is on the list incorrectly as VE9AAG, it should be VE4AAG
7657 Greg WB2PPQ was incorrectly listed as N4LK
9502 Joe was listed as KB8JNW, should be KB6JNW

Welcome to the New FISTS

Some FISTS keep their own lists updated from these listings, so even though there was a complete list in Issue 1, I want to officially welcome these new FISTS, and acknowledge their sponsors. This list takes up where we left off in the last issue of 2002.

#	Call	Name	QTH	Sponsor
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9566	W3SE	WES	CA	
9567	AA6TZ	CLIVE	CA	
9568	KL1HA	HANNAH	AK	
9569	KL1HC	ALAN	AK	
9570	W9JQT	BOB	IL	
9571	KG4VCG	GIL	GA	
9572	KK3B	DAVE	WA	
9573	W1CQD	CLAIR	VT	
9574	K2UOD	KEITH	NY	
9575	KM1CC	Cape Cod	MA	K1RV
		Visitor cntr		
9576	K3PF	RON	MD	
9577	W7KXB	Bill	AZ	
9578	NQ6C	ROGER	CA	K3QA
9579	KH6HHS	TALLEY	VA	
9580	W8XC	WINFORD	MI	
9581	K8YG	AL	OH	W8III
9582	AB7MP	MARK	WA	
9583	KK7CJ	RUTH	WA	AB7MD
9584	KD5SCG	Jack	CO	
9585	KB2FM	GLENN	NJ	
9586	N5IOT	BOB	TX	
9587	VE2CU	MIKE	QC	W4DON
9588	K1TJE	ROBERT	CA	WB2FXK
9589	KE6JZF	TONY	CA	K6DMM
9590	NB1R	NED	MA	WB9WZN
9591	W6DVB	BILL	CA	
9592	KG4QGX	JOHN	KY	
9593	KA6Y	RICK	CA	
9594	KJ6EB	COTTER	UT	
9595	KE9ZK	KEVIN	IL	
9596	KB6VME	STEVE	CA	
9597	WA4RCW	RON	TN	ND4U
9598	VE9AAG	TONY	MB	
9599	K6RCZ	R A N D Y	CA	
9700	W4FFF	FISTS of	NC	W4MJT
		N.Carolina		
9701	KA9EKG	TOM	WI	W8LQ
9702	N1DBS	DAVE	CT	K2NPN
9703	AE7I	CRAIG	NV	
9704	K6UFO	MORK	CA	
9705	KD7SST	CHARLES	UT	
9706	KG0GY	BRAD	NE	
9707	VE7DRC	DWAYNE	BC	N6RNP
9708	W2IB	DOC	NY	NT2W

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FISTS CW Club

#	Call	Name	QTH	Sponsor
9709	K8TEZ	LARRY	OH	WB2FXK
9710	KM1C	WILLIAM	MA	
9711	K3WWW	BUD	PA	WZ8C
9712	WP4KGR	FRANK	PR	
9713	N1WT	RON	VT	W5OS
9714	WB4YJE	LOU	IL	
9715	WB4TJH	BILL	MS	
9716	W4TEE	DAVID	GA	
9717	K7UIE	CRAIG	OR	WB2FXK
9718	NP2L	MAL	VI	
9719	WD4DNG	MARK	WV	WB7RHT
9720	W9IFR	MIKE	IL	
9721	K7ALR	DAVE	WY	
9722	KD5TSG	MAX	TX	ND4U
9723	KG4RCB	FRED	VA	N8IK
9724	KB4PPE	BILL	SC	WB0B
9725	K5PTC	Pesky Texan	TX	N1LN
		Contest Club		
9726	W4NML	BILL	ID	
9727	N9TNQ	BOB	IL	
9728	KA6G	JIM	CA	
9729	KD5TXW	MATT	TX	
9730	N5WLA	FRED	TX	
9731	KG4KZZ	DAVE	VA	
9732	AE6EJ	CURT	CA	
9733	KD7CJV	PHILIP	OR	WB2FXK
9734	KF4CQN	ROY	KY	WB2FXK
9735	KC8NHG	PHIL	OH	
9736	KB3HPK	ROBERT	DC	
9737	W9GLG	GERALD	WI	
9738	KG4WNA	JOHN	KY	
9739	KG4QDH	MICHAEL	GA	
9740	KB1JGA	JERRY	MA	K1KID
9741	AG4QZ	MAURY	NC	
9742	K4REB	JOE	NC	
9743	K1REB	SUE	NC	K4REB
9744	K9REB	REB	NC	K4RFEB
9745	W7JHS	MAC	WA	
9746	AA3II	JERRY	PA	
9747	KC0CM	JIM	CO	
9748	AA6AV	PETER	CA	KE6QR
9749	AC7QT	EARL	WA	
9750	K5FFF	Pouncing		
		Fox ARC		
9751	K2ZDX	TOM	NY	K7LFY/
9752	N9MO	RICH	WI	K7SCX
9753	WP3TN	RAUL	PR	
9754	N0CWW	NED	IA	WB2FXK
9755	KD5TMF	COLIN	TX	
9756	K7ZAD	GARY	UT	N1YXU
9757	W1HNJ	MIKE	CT	
9758	W7IB	CASEY	CA	
9759	KF3CV	STEVE	MD	

#	Call	Name	QTH	Sponsor
9760	N4NSS	KYLE	FL	KU4BT
9761	W8JFB	JIM	MI	K1ERB
9762	KC0LUX	MARK	MO	
9763	KC2FPR	JOHN	NJ	KB1DSB
9764	W3DCG	DARIN	GA	KG4PYN
9765	KA6DVN	BILL	CA	
9766	K7POS	FLOYD	OR	
9767	VE7AOP	RALPH	BC	
9768	N7AG	BILL	OR	W6JEP
9769	W4WYD	BARRY	TN	
9770	WA0WZB	DONALD	MO	W4LGJ
9771	KB9PLB	STEVE	IL	
9772	KA4IQD	STEVE	OH	
9773	AB6CV	MIKE	CA	
9774	W6QHD	JAY	CA	W6HV
9775	AA5KV	JOHN	LA	
9776	KQ6VH	STEVE	CA	K6DF
9777	K5HOY	JO	NM	
9778	KG6MEF	SCOTT	CA	KG0GY
9779	KD5GQY	MIKE	AR	
9780	KH6JLX	ERNEST	HI	
9781	KP4FJT	CARLOS	PR	
9782	W9AN	AL	IL	
9783	K7ZNP	GARY	OR	
9784	KB4BS	JIM	KY	
9785	WD4IEK	JIM	KY	W6DDB
9786	W6TCP	IAN	CA	
9787	N2DKB	PAT	NY	W3WWP
9788	NY3FL	DICK	FL	
9789	K4XXX	ED	KY	
9790	N4OI	KEN	NC	KB9YQP
9791	K6KIN	RAY	CA	
9792	NN6EE	JIM	CA	
9793	K9VOL	BILL	TX	
9794	N6HI	JOHN	AZ	
9795	VE2CP	POETI	QUE	
9796	WA2ICB	MOE	NY	
9797	NN8R	RAY	OH	
9798	N1WS	MICHEL	NJ	W5OS
9799	unknown	MICHAEL	MA	
9900	K0AAA	Z e d ' s	MN	K0NNN
		DXers		
9901	KC8EAF	TOM	OH	
9902	N6VS	LEON	CA	W6YOO
9903	AC6KD	PETE	CA	KC0CCR
9904	N3XUK	BRUCE	PA	
9905	KD5RSS	BUTCH	OK	
9906	KE9D	ROGER	WI	AA0KN
9907	N2BX	PAUL	NJ	
9908	AE4IM	JOHN	FL	KE3CR
9909	WB6HGJ	GUY	CA	WB2FXK
9910	N4JF	JERRY	AI	KB1DSB
9911	N4EKZ	JAMES	GA	

FISTS CW Club

#	Call	Name	QTH	Sponsor
9912	KA6JFF	DALE	CA	
9913	VA3AVP	DAVID	ONT	
9914	pending			
9915	W4TAT	BOB	FL	W4DON
9916	WV0Q	JACQUES	KS	
9917	K8FH	FRED	OH	
9918	pending			
9919	KG4VZE	JOHN	KY	
9920	WB8NUT	DUFFY	OH	
9921	N3XL	BILL	MD	
9922	K4RKN	JOHN	AL	
9923	N5ESE	MONTY	TX	K7ZPE
9924	WA9OAO	LARRY	IN	
9925	WA8NTA	DICK	CO	
9926	N7EIE	LEROY	WA	
9927	WA1QCE	RON	RI	
9928	KC8ITN	SCOTT	OH	
9929	KG4WNE	RON	VA	
9930	WA0QZK	JACK	IN	
9931	KC5WN	STEVE	NM	
9932	pending			
9933	VA5LIZ	LIZ	ND	
9934	VA5SAM	SAM	ND	
9935	W5VFO	CHARLES	TX	
9936	W0BJJ	BERT	KS	
9937	K3AJ	TOM	MD	
9938	KB3IFK	ANDREW	MD	
9939	WD4HWO	BRUCE	FL	WR4Z
9940	N9DVM	JOHN	IL	
9941	W2TFL	PAUL	NY	KA2HDO
9942	KD4RVX	JOHN	MS	
9943	K9EYT	RAY	IL	
9944	KG4WEL	SCOTT	GA	
9945	W6VFU	ELLIOTT	CA	
9946	N7CXJ	BRUCE	AZ	NF0Z
9947	W2LN	JOHN	TX	N2APQ
9948	KA5MVV	JACK	NE	WB2FXK
9949	W5ASW	JIM	TX	
10000	KN0WCW	FISTS	USA	WZ8C

Callsign Changes

4473 = Don, AI4CW is now NN4S
8641 = Steve K0KOC is now AB0XE
9319 = Mike KC8NSJ is now KN8J
9783 = Gary KD7QVZ is now K7ZNP
9405 = Gordon KG8FRG is now AG4WH
8162 = Bob WA3NVZ is now W3EOP.
9457 = Stan KC8UJQ is now N8HN
8711 = George KQ6CV is now KE6TE
8673 = Dave K3WQ is now KA3QBQ
9783 = Gary KD7QVZ is now K7ZNP
9405 = Gordon KG4FRG is now AG4WH

In the next to last column last year I asked for your questions which I promised to answer in the first column of 2003. Well, I got enough questions to fill a couple of columns and that leaves me in a bind because I also promised to finish my tour of the bands and the QRP results to be expected from each one. This month and the month after next I'll try to answer the questions received, while next month will finish up the band tour.

This first question is excerpted from a letter from Dave, N1PT in Lancaster, NH. Dave asks, "I haven't been too sure about R-S-T. I want to get it right for QRP. The "R" seems straightforward and somewhat objective in its definition. However "S" seems a little ambiguous and with the K-1 I will have no meter to help me. Also it seems most of the rigs I hear give a pure "T". Could you give some "rules of thumb" to help me with the report I give."

Well Dave, I'll try. Let's first take a look at the T portion of the RST system. As you say, virtually every modern day rig emits a T9 signal. This wasn't always true and at one time you really did hear signals that fit all 9 categories. If you want to hear what that was like, tune in when the Antique Wireless Association has one of its 1929 parties where participants use rigs built as they were in 1929. I think if you do run across a signal that has a buzz, hum, etc. you should tell the station by giving him other than a T9, then if he inquires about it, explain what you are hearing in his signal. Otherwise in 99.9 percent of the cases, just give the standard T9.

As you say the R portion of the RST is pretty straightforward in its workings. If you have no trouble whatsoever copying the station that's an R5 and right down the line to an R1 when you can perhaps just hear the station but can't really copy anything. Just don't give an R5 to someone who answered your CQ and you had to ask him for several repeats before you got his call right. That's an R3 probably, at best.

It's hard to divide the strength of a signal into 9 distinct levels, so don't worry about the S portion of the RST all that much. Just don't give someone an S9 report when you can barely hear them, nor give someone an S3 report because you know he is running QRP, but he is really just as strong as most other signals on the band.

In my years of giving and receiving RST reports in some 58,000 QSO's, I find that the following is probably more realistic than the official definitions. S9 means one of two things - you're in a contest where everybody gives 599 reports to everyone even if you can barely copy a station - or - the station really does have a very strong signal comparable to the strongest signals you hear on a band. S7 describes an average signal - not overly strong nor too weak - kind of well, average. S5 is generally used universally for the weakest signals that can be reliably copied on a band. Then there are S8 and S6 for when you can't decide between S7 and S9 or S5 and S7. The S4, 3, 2 and 1 values are seldom used except when you are really having difficulty copying a signal because it is so weak. Just about universally when someone gives an R3 it will be coupled with an S3 for a 339 report which generally means you are very weak and I'm having a hard time copying you. You don't hear a lot of 549, 539, 529, 519 reports. Generally an R4 or lower reading accompanies an S4 or weaker signal.

The bottom line is don't fret about it all that much. There are more important things to worry about in life. Just don't always be giving 599 reports to stations you can barely copy (unless you're contesting) and don't be afraid to give 339 reports for fear of hurting someone's feelings. If you are having a lot of trouble copying someone weak, giving a 339 report may encourage them to QRS or QSZ to make copy easier for you.

I got a bit wound up on that one, so here's a short question and answer now. George, AC7AI writes "Just read your article in The Keynote and was intrigued by your question on the Aldis Lamp. I am guessing that this is the lamp used

for marine applications but that's just a guess on my part. What was the final answer as to the fastest speed?

That's a good guess because you are absolutely right. Of course there is no definitive answer to fastest speed, but I believe the answer I got at the time was around 18-20 WPM.

That was not really a QRP related question, but since I mentioned the Aldis Lamp, I thought I should answer it in the column. I wonder what a QRP Aldis Lamp is - using a 5 watt light bulb instead of a 100 watt bulb? HI.

George also asks some other very interesting questions dealing with CW, but not really with QRP.

One final question this month from Moe, VE1QJ, "Hello John. Could you provide info about this digital mode known as PSK31? I have been on this mode for about two weeks and find it very exciting."

Well that is definitely a QRP question since PSK31 is supposedly a low power mode. However FISTS is a Morse Club and I don't think it would be proper to answer it here. I couldn't anyway because I know nothing whatsoever about PSK31 nor do I have any desire to learn. Morse code is my means of communication on amateur radio, nothing else - period. Moe, I hope you don't think I'm rude with that answer, I'm just answering honestly. I'm sure a good search on the Internet would turn up web sites that specialize in other amateur radio modes just as mine specializes in Morse.

And that's it for this month. My, these lines fly by fast. More of your questions the month after next and maybe beyond. Till then drop by at www.alltel.net/~johnshan/ or drop me a note via johnshan@alltel.net or John Shannon, 478 E. High St., Kittanning, PA 16201. I love hearing from you one way or another, especially via Morse on the ham bands. 73 -30-

XMLog

I have noticed quite a few articles in the Key-note lately about logging programs. The one I have used for the past several years is called XMLog and I recommend it highly.

Here are some of it's good points:

It is free.

It is well maintained.

You can get the latest copy at www.xmlog.com.

It supports packet clusters, and CW.

It has a large variety of built-in reports such as: DXCC checklist.

WAS checklist.

County validation.

Submission tracking for major awards.

It is simple to query.

It can be used with all the versions of Windows. I cannot recommend this package highly enough.

I have over 9,000 QSOs entered and queries are still very quick. The reports are very useful. The main screen is user configurable, that is you can have default entries. QSLing is made easy by XMLog. Labels can be made for all your QSOs at any time, sorted any way, and mailing labels can be created from addresses on the major CD ROMs that are sold. There is also a Q & A group online. The link to it is on the home page.

There are features too numerous to list here, but I would recommend that any FISTS member that is looking for a great logging program get a copy of XMLog. Try it out for a while and see how user friendly it is.

Steve Altig - N7IF, FISTS #3398

Don't Forget About VHF/UHF CW

Recently, I participated in the VHF contest. I operated only CW. I knew I would not do big numbers but was in it just to have a little fun.

However, it became apparent that if enough CW operators operated CW only, we could heavily influence who did well in a VHF contest. The contesters who can copy CW will get more points simply because there are more stations for them to work.

The "who needs CW?" crowd (common on VHF & UHF) will finally answer their own question. Maybe we need to emphasize participation in the big VHF/UHF contests. Carl Gansen WB0CFF Fists 3465

FISTS AWARDS

By Dennis K6DF

Is everyone tired of Winter? I don't know about anyone else, but I'm sure tired of all the rain, and I'm certain there are many members that are very tired of snow. What say we just skip Spring and go directly to Summer?

Be sure to look at the loooong list of award recipients at the end of this column. It appears that some of our members have really been busy on the key!

Please Note!!!

Thought I'd give everyone an early heads-up on something that will be happening in the near future. AT&T Broadband internet has been bought out by Comcast. Soooo, all of us who have @attbi.com e-mail addresses will be changing our e-mail address soon. Please be aware that this, and as soon as I know when this will take place, I will make every effort to get the word out to all FISTS members. Hopefully there will be minimal interruption in the change over so you will not have problems sending me your award logs.

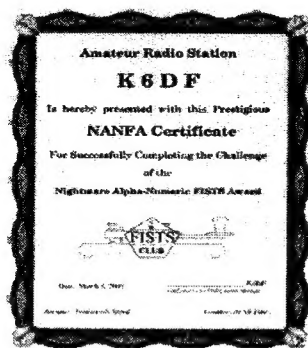
15th Anniversary Awards

As you can see by the calls listed at the end of this column under "15th Ann 150 Award", there were several logs received just under the wire for the 15th Anniversary 150 award. The 15th Anniversary 300 plaques were mailed to the 10 recipients on February 18, 2003. They

looked terrific.

A total of 33 club members attained the 150 award certificate with 10 members achieving the 300 award plaque. Here, listed alphabetically, are those dedicated 10 who spent relentless hours searching the bands for those elusive VE and Club stations in order to collect the 15th Anniversary 300 plaque award.

**AA9WK, K2SB, K4UK, K7LFY, K8XF,
K9JXW, UA6JD, W1GUE, W4FCR,**



WBOPYF

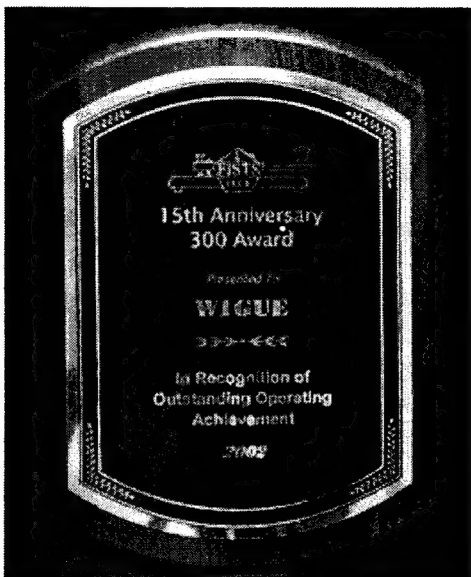
A hearty "Congratulations to all" for a job well done!

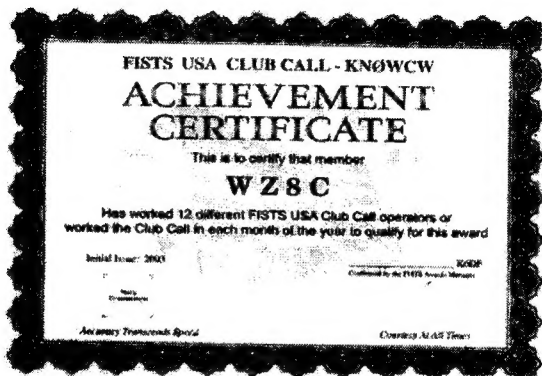
NANFA Award (Old Name NANFY)

Please make note of the following changes in your Keynote issue number 1, 2003,

1. The NANFY award has been renamed to the NANFA award, (Nightmare Alpha-Numeric FISTS Award). The word "Yearly" has been dropped from the name.
- 2.. Award start date remains the same, Jan 1, 2003, but there is no ending date for the award.
3. Log requirements. Send in your completed NANFA Grid Page ONLY. No other log is required, just the completed Grid Page Log.

Reasons for these changes: Nancy talked with many club members about the feasibility of obtaining this award in a one year time frame, and after careful consideration decided to make the above changes. These changes will encourage more club members to operate and enjoy working for this award over a greater





period of time.

Who will be the first to get this award? I have been talking to many club members and there are a few that are getting very close.

FISTS USA Club Call

Another new item this year is the FISTS USA Club Call, KNØWCW.

You will hear a new FISTS Club Call on the air, 5 points towards your FISTS awards and just like any other FISTS number, can only be used once. You will hear this call being used by various operators throughout the USA. Rules and instructions for using this call are on the FISTS USA awards web site.

Also, associated with this new club call is a new award you can get each year. The "Club Call Achievement" award (CCA). Rules were published in the Keynote issue #1 for 2003. If you missed that issue, here is a quick overview of the requirements:

Work the FISTS USA Club Call once in each month of the year (regardless who the operator is), \S or \S Work 12 different FISTS USA Club Call operators during the year (Jan 1 to Dec 31). You can earn this award each year. The initial issue of the award will be a certificate. Once you have a certificate subsequent years will be endorsed with a year sticker which can be placed on your original certificate. There is plenty of room on the certificate for endorsement stickers.

Since Jan 1, 2003, when this award started, there has been one (1) Club Call Achievement award issued to W5AJX, Congratulations to Don for being the first to get the CCA award! OK, that's about it for the awards column for this issue. Remember, it doesn't matter if you work for awards or not, what does matter is for you to get on CW and have a good time, enjoy meeting old friends and to make new ones. Have fun and I'll C U on the bands . . .
73 Dennis K6DF

Award Log Requirements...

For logs sent via e-mail: Please DO NOT send any scanned images of your log sheets to me via e-mail. The attached files are too large and Dupe checking them is very difficult.

The only files I will accept via e-mail are; Text, ASCII, Excel and Microsoft Word files.

When you send your log in as a Word or Excel file, DO NOT paste into the Word or Excel document any scanned images of your log sheets. Word or Excel files that contain scanned images of your log will be rejected.

Please DO NOT send any formatted files. By this I mean, do not highlight text or use color text, borders, tables, etc.

The Awards e-mail Address is: FISTSAWARDS@attbi.com. Feel free to send questions about awards to this address as well.

Award logs sent by e-mail attachment need not have a "Dupe" sheet as I can sort and Dupe check them in an instant. This does not release you from the responsibility of Dupe checking your electronically submitted log. Several logs sent via e-mail have been rejected because of an over abundance of duplicate numbers.

Any log files sent via e-mail must contain editable text. All handwritten "Paper" logs of over 100 contacts being submitted for awards will need to have a "Dupe" sheet attached with the log. A simple "Dupe" sheet is explained in the next section below. It is very easy to

construct and will allow you to make sure your award log has been properly checked for "Duplicate" FISTS numbers or CC numbers before it is submitted. Paper logs received without a Dupe check sheet will be returned to the sender unprocessed.

If you are printing your award log from a computer, Please:
Sort your log by FISTS number for Century awards.
Sort your log by CC number for Platinum awards.

Above all, check your award log for duplicate numbers and if found DELETE them BEFORE you send in your log.

As many of your already know, I try to maintain a fast turn around for awards. This means that your award will be mailed to you within a day or two of my receipt of your log . . . provided that your log contains all the required data and does not have too many dupes.

How to Make Your Own Dupe Check Sheet

Take a blank piece of 8.5 by 11 paper and turn it sideways so that the long side is at the top. Write the numbers 1 through 9 along the top edge of the paper spreading them out so you have plenty of room between each number.

Now, go through your award log and write the FISTS number for each QSO under the numbered column that corresponds with the first number of each FISTS number. Each time you enter a new number in a column check down through that column to see if that FISTS number has been previously entered. If it has, then it is a dupe and should NOT be used for your Award Log. Once you have deleted all Dupe contacts from your log, add up all the points from the valid contacts and list your total points on your log.

Once you have made a dupe check sheet like the one above, you can use it as you make FISTS QSO's to keep track of which numbers

are new and should be added to your award log.

When applying for the "Century" awards, (Basic Century, Silver, Gold and Diamond) please include a point column in your log as these awards run on a point system. 1 point for contacts in your own country, 2 points for DX contact, and 3 points for working a FISTS affiliated club station. There are three Club Stations that are worth 5 points each, and they are: GXØPIX, KNØWCW, and ZL6FF.

The Platinum series awards, (Platinum, Platinum 250, and Platinum 500) DO NOT run on the point system. Platinum awards go by the number of Century Club (CC) numbers collected via on the air QSO's with FISTS member stations. A CC number may only be used once for Platinum series awards. Example: You earn your Platinum award (100 different CC numbers), you then may add to that award total, 150 more "different" CC numbers to obtain your Platinum 250 award. Same applies for the Platinum 500 award, simply add 250 more "different" CC numbers to your 250 award.

AWARDS ISSUED - Dec 3, 2002 to Mar 8, 2003

Basic Century (CC)

AA7CG			
AB8EL	K8TEZ	N0CI	
AD6GI	KB0LUR	N1RGP	
AF4LQ	KB6NU	N2EZY	W0CML
AG4OG	KD3EM	N3JV	W4WDA
G3ISK	KD5CMN	N3ZPO	W5EI
G3KPT	KD5MDO	N4FI	W7DUD
GW3KJN	KG2G	N4QE	W7RVR
K0EVZ	KG4NNN	N5EYX	W9AJR
K0KGY	KG4RCB	N8JK	W9NLA
K2YWE	KG6IIP	N9JWC	WA1TIA
K4PTT	KK4DW	NC3S	WA5TCZ
K4SP	KK8STA	NQ6C	WR4Z
K5GXG	KN0WCW	OK1NR	
K6MGO	KP4HLR	VA3RJ	
K7MW	KR1B	VE2OI	
K8FLY		VE3PNZ	

Silver Century	1 X QRP Award	Platinum 250 Award
AF4BI G3GUR G3HAL G3KPT G4KPN K8FLY K8MW K8VFR KA3AKC KE5HL KG4CUY KK4DW N3PM VA3RJ W2KFQ W4MJT WA5PQL WB2TQC WB5RYB WD9EMF	AF4LQ AG4OG G3KPT K7RRR K9TJL KC8LTL KE6OIO KG4CUY VE2ARZ WA1TIA WB5KHC	K9XL KA3AKC KY7F W3JGS W7PFZ WB5KHC
Gold Century	2 X QRP Award	Platinum 500 Award
HB9CHE K1TCI K3QA K8FLY KA3AKC KH6HE M0MJG M5AGL N3PM N7YY VA3BWT VE2ARZ VK3DBD W3JGS	K9TJL	W8FS W9FFU
Diamond Century	Mobile Award	WAS Award
G0SCP K7ZYV K9PL W5AJX W7DO	NONE	K1BMV KK4DW N5DCF NX2GW NY2PO VE2ARZ W5IBZ W6YHM WB9WZN
Gold Century	Platinum Award	RCC Award
HB9CHE K1TCI K3QA K8FLY KA3AKC KH6HE M0MJG M5AGL N3PM N7YY VA3BWT VE2ARZ VK3DBD W3JGS	AC5ZQ AK7O G0IYZ G3HAL G3KPT K0EVE K8FLY K8JD K8MW KA3AKC KA9DVX KK4DW KT4UE N2IJ N3PM N4GE VK3DBD W4MJT W4WDA WA5TCZ WB2TQC WB5RYB	KC0M VK3DBD W5AJX
Diamond Century	Platinum Award	15th Ann 150 Award
G0SCP K7ZYV K9PL W5AJX W7DO	AC5ZQ AK7O G0IYZ G3HAL G3KPT K0EVE K8FLY K8JD K8MW KA3AKC KA9DVX KK4DW KT4UE N2IJ N3PM N4GE VK3DBD W4MJT W4WDA WA5TCZ WB2TQC WB5RYB	AA1KS AA9WK K3QA KN9X W7DO W7PFZ W8DO W8FS WB6QQR WB9WZN
Diamond Century	Platinum Award	Club Call Achievement
G0SCP K7ZYV K9PL W5AJX W7DO	AC5ZQ AK7O G0IYZ G3HAL G3KPT K0EVE K8FLY K8JD K8MW KA3AKC KA9DVX KK4DW KT4UE N2IJ N3PM N4GE VK3DBD W4MJT W4WDA WA5TCZ WB2TQC WB5RYB	W5AJX

From WZ8C's Mailbox:

Hi Nancy,

I have had considerable frustration with sending using a keyer and paddle. I am a loner and completely self-taught. At 72 years of age, the pounding is getting my fingers numb and I'm determined to learn to send good Morse Code using a keyer and paddle.

I guess I need a new key because the one I have, which is a MFJ, has a oscillator circuit built in that breaks down on me, often in a QSO. I'm not very handing at fixing anything so probably I will eventually get me a good straight key that is built for my kind of pounding.

My last QSO turned out to be neat because I started out with the straight key and when it broke I changed to the Paddlette keyer and paddle and performed very well.

By the issue of Keynote 5 & 6 Combo 2002 edition I guess *I may not be wanted in FISTS*. I opened the Keynote as I always do to a random page. There I saw "Challenge = Fun".

Then I read saw "*ban the keyer*" and where I was being bashed because I'm lousy with a paddle and keyer.

I try hard and before I even went on the air I copied 5 letter cipher groups from the ARRL "Morse Code the Essential Language". But when I got on the air I found all sorts of things coming out of my keyer and paddle and I got so nervous that I barely made it through a QSO.

Most of my help in getting better QSO's came through the ham I was chatting with back when I was a Tech Plus. And most recently I followed up a QSO with an e-mail to apologize for my lousy sending and that my triangle loop didn't seem to have 'good ears'. He explained he was on a Container Ship in the Pacific Ocean and was using only 500 mw but was up 90 feet and his antenna 26 feet higher than that. Then he proceeded to tell me how to improve my straight key by making suggestions on how to get the straight key in shape. It just so happened he was a FISTS member. He said he was lousy at keyer and paddle, too.

The point is that this kind of help has come from QSO's. Then I read the latest issue of Keynote

and find comments about how bad it is that phone people are invading our CW bands, those of us using punctuation are bashed, and that a solid 5 wpm is no good, what a bad bunch the new Extra Class members are, and if you can't send decently take up SSB. Is this how we promote CW?

I've been sending my 5 watt signal late at night and believe me it is *not fun making the mistakes I did*. At 1 AM at night in Shoreline (north of Seattle and touching) I can only hear often one person out there at a time on the whole CW band. This is not the Midwest or Eastcoast where big populations are who for the most part are sleeping at that time. So I guess my bad code is not heard by much of the world. I sent lots of CQ's but sometimes get skunked for the night.

The most mysterious call I got recently was from a et6 I'm sure answering to my call but being chicken I hesitated too long and sent an A6 deciding he was just a self styled keyer. My local experts said Ethiopia would be impossible and I leave it at that. But then I look at the globe and see that if a signal were to follow the long path around the South Pole over water most all the way might be a possible freak propagation condition. Makes me realize always send back what you hear and not what you think it 'should be'. After all he sent twice clearly. Maybe someday I'll find that there is not ET6 and that will be that.

So I guess I should put it to FISTS - *should I continue trying to send good on the keyer or should I just go to SSB. Actually I plan to get the 20 watt TenTec 516 that has both SSB and CW. I was into a bit of contest 10 meter SSB because CW is unavailable on the Radio Shack 10 meter rig I have. But I left the thing scanning all last week with only scheduled local nets and a tone on 29.6 something.*

I've been staying with fists because of excellent articles by John Shannon and others who give good advice and "how to" articles.

Instead of letting the readers bash us - *how about some articles on improving ones keyer and paddle sending. Probably if I set the straight key as suggested in my recent QSO mentioned above I would get over pounding the table so hard it bothers others and makes my fingers very numb.*

But other reasons for using a keyer are for my own possible contest work where I can even use the little cheat of having two memories (Paddlette) enough to put in my contest information in accurately.

About using punctuation. *Many of my QSO's have been difficult as we pass our pertinent info for a QSO back and forth in QRM, QRN, QSB. That nice little 'Shoreline, WA'. I think helps get it through.*

My first contact on March 1, 1998 was nerve racking and my fist froze and I couldn't continue for the moment. But a patient ham stuck with me and lead the QSO to a great conclusion and said 'try another'. It took another week but I did and by the end of 1998 I was getting tailgated after chatting with AK or Japan which I suppose meant I had improved. *But I guess I was lucky not to get one of the FISTS elite who would have probably called me a lid.*

And by the way, I often felt like a lid because I didn't understand that the propagation could cause my contact to go away and leaving me in the middle of another QSO in progress.

Nobody knows for sure if a ham is trying his best but just blowing it, having a bad night for concentration, or following textbook rules that may be outmoded. At any rate anyone can walk away from a QSO with too much QRM or whatever and if you are in the area where I am and hear often nothing on 20 meters that can mean my getting skunked a lot.

I actually had to almost quit for a while during my 1999 upgrade year and some of the 2 years following because I enjoyed following a QSO up with a letter so much that when my wife wanted me to go on walks with her I couldn't get the time to respond.

Further, after my computer crashed it took a while for me to get my computer log back and things really got messy. I just stuffed the QSO's into a drawer and it was hit or miss whether I sent a QSL or not. I'm finally getting back to normal by restricting writing to the back of a QSL.

So even though I might be a 'lid' to some I was very proud of a recent QSO where we just had some fun and I didn't have any mistakes. I'm sure there will be a lot of foulups before I get to

be where I want to be, though. (Nancy's note: This is such a long letter that I edited it for space, but just realized that the OM didn't sign his name - and I already deleted the email it came in, so I don't know who sent it, sorry!)

From WZ8C's Mailbox

Just an update, Nancy. Since I last wrote to you, I have been having a ball on the FISTS freqs. Seems like all of a sudden, I started hearing guys and making contacts. I got my basic Century Award, and am well on my way to Platinum, with less than 25 to go. I have 41 states, so far, and all done with my indoor antenna in my garage.

I even joined in the last Sprint, and had a ball, made 20 qso's with 15 different states, in 2 1/2 hours. 73, Bill, K6MGO

I sure have enjoyed my Fists membership. I can't believe how my CW skills have improved in such a short time. I'm getting ready to apply for the Silver award after only a year, awesome. Thanks for all you and the other folks do to keep the Club operating. Joe Seibert, AL1F Bethel, Alaska

I do have one small gripe. I've been turned off by FISTS nmumbers rattling off all of their awards numbers. I'm not interested in hearing these numbers at all. I would be proud of these awards too, but why do I have to sit there and wait until they're finished with sending them. Heck I have not ven made the 100 FISTS contacts to get the Century Award! 73 de Anonymous

My 2 1/2 year old son is named Frederick Benjamin Buchanan. I did not realize that his initials were the Morse FB (fine business) until I announced his birth and name on the Maryland, Delaware, DC National Traffic Service (MDD NTS) Net. I heard for the first time in my radio career CW applause. Some stations sent FB over and over again. It was understood when one station spelled it out for me. He could be either F.B. Buchanan or just F.B.. Fred has his own practice key and oscillator which he keeps (properly!) on his desk in his room. 73 Ernest AA3GV

Internet Telegraphy is Possible: see my web page— <http://morsecodeonweb.homestead.com/>

At last a new Code program called CW Communicator has been developed for QSO's in real time via the internet. It was written in Australia and is available free. You must have Windows 95 or later plus sound card and speaker. Thus far users are mostly Aussies and English. Most activity takes place during evening hours in those locations. I usually find a contact between 1 and 3 PM CST.

See my web site for info on CW Communicator. We have had MorseMail program for couple of years now, and it works very well as a Morse bulletin bd. where you can leave and pick up Morse messages.
Sid Vaughan N0DJD

Oh Oh!

Driving to work this morning I was enjoying the chatter on the local repeater. One guy was telling another how he used to hate CW but over time it had become his favorite mode. While expounding on many of the virtues of CW, he commented that it was a "life saving mode".

With that, another fellow jumped in and voiced his displeasure at the code requirement as well as CW operators in general. And he summed up his argument with, "and what do you mean about CW being a 'life saving mode'? Other modes are much more efficient AND don't give me that old baloney story about how if a microphone quits working in an emergency a CW op could short the mike wires together to send code!"

Very calmly, the first amateur explained: "I call CW a 'life saving mode' because if my wife knew what I was saying about her when I am on the air, she would KILL me..."—
Jeff Davis FISTS #6641

KB0QZ DE W1XH: HTX10 on CW

I just saw your question in the FISTS newsletter about getting the HTX10 on CW. I think this idea will work. You could feed the output of a little audio oscillator into the microphone input of the rig and key the oscillator. On SSB, this should sound like CW.

The oscillator should be about 750 Hz (popular CW offset), have an adjustable output level (to keep from overdriving the audio section), and have a very high tone quality (sine wave - to keep away strange, spurious signals). The ARRL handbook should have such an oscillator.

I'm not sure, but I strongly suspect this is the way the FT817 does CW. The out board oscillator avoids the problem of drilling holes in the HTX10.

You will probably want to investigate out board audio filters, too. The selectivity probably is very wide.

This method is not new. Back in the 1960's, we used it to get MCW on two meter rigs. I held a microphone to the speaker on my keyer.

Good luck and I'll be looking for you on 10. 73
Al W1XH, FISTS 8768

For the Winter 2003 Fist Sprint I operated with the name "Jim" to honor Jim Maxwell, W6CF. Many people in the Northern California Contest Club, NCCC, operated as "Jim" in the NCJ CW Sprint the same day as the Fist > Sprint. Jim Maxwell was a great figure in amateur radio. He was both a founder of the NCCC and the first editor of > its newsletter. Most recently he served as the ARRL Pacific Division Director. His quick wit, general wisdom, and knowledge on the history of amateur radio will be missed by many around the world. - Kent "Jim" Henneuse K6ENT > Fist # 7885

My First QSO

I was living in Los Angeles CA in 1962, and passed Novice exam in LA FCC office on 19 Aug 62. My first QSO was at 1035 PST on 18 Nov 62, when I answered the CQ of WN6BUK. He gave me a 599. I gave him 399, and lost him (due to poor selectivity in receiver, the Heathkit AR-3) without getting any other info. My transmitter was a Knightkit T-60 with a 7.178 MHz crystal. His crystal was on 7.180 MHz. My antenna was parallel 80 thru 10 dipoles made from 8-conductor rotator wire strung on 8-foot poles on top of the 2-story building that housed a grocery store (below) and apartments (on 2nd floor). Lead-in was 75-ohm coax.

I was at the time a member of a local radio club with call sign of W6EDL (since reissued) at the White Memorial Hospital. They had a Viking Invader 2000 transmitter and Collins 75A4 receiver, plus a Johnson matchbox, and a triband beam atop the 6-story hospital. So I took my T-60 over to the hospital (I lived only 2 blocks away) and got on the air from there, using my own call, WN6BEV, and using my T-60 and their 75A4 receiver. Much to my surprise, I again heard WN6BUK calling CQ on 40 meters and I contacted him again, with 599 sigs both ends, and also got his name and QTH: Dave, in North Hollywood. My log shows that the contact began at 1332 PST and ended at 1418 PST. During the QSO I also worked Jerry, WN6BPE, who was visiting Dave's shack.

Memory is dim now, but I do recall that I put up a dipole on top of the hospital at some time or other, although I'm not at all certain that that was prior to my first QSO from the club. So I may have simply used the tribander for my 40 meter QSO that day. And in any event, even if I did have a dipole for my transmitter, I am sure that I did use the tribander on receive.

My log shows only one more QSO from WMH that day, KN7TDV, Bob, with note, "In Nevada I think. QRM." The next entry in my log is for 21 Feb 63 operating from my home QTH again, and now with a Drake 2-B receiver, though my

next QSO wasn't until the next day, 22 Feb 63.

A word about W6EDL. The White Memorial Hospital was a teaching hospital affiliated with Loma Linda Medical School, and at the time I was employed at WMH as a bedpan jockey. It so happened that one day I wandered by the club station's open door (on the basement floor of the hospital) and heard someone operating the station so I and stopped in to chat. As a result I joined the club and received my own key to the station. They had an Instructograph code practice machine, with the punched tapes, and I used that to practice my code, while I studied theory and regulations from books at home.

Since the other club members were doctors and interns, both very busy, there wasn't much competition for use of the station, and since I lived just 2 blocks away, and had my own key to get in, I could (and did) go there at any time of the day or night and get on the air. I passed first the Tech and then the General exam in the Spring of 1963 and then I was able to use all the club equipment. It was almost like having a second station of my own. Besides the Invader 2000 and 75A4, they also had a Gonset iGoonie Bird with a few 8 MHz crystals, and a ground plane antenna on the roof, for 2 meters.

I operated both from at home and at the club until 1968, when I finally finished my BA in English (it only took me eleven years, mostly at night) and left LA on a trip overseas that took me to 19 countries in 9 months at a total cost of \$1521. I didn't have any ham gear with me, but I did get on the air as guest op at 9N1MM (Father Moran, in Kathmandu, Nepal) in the Spring of 1969. But that is another story. Fred AK7D FISTS 8818

Looking for a QSL Program

I have a copy of MS Office and am looking for a working qsl program that has been designed to work with the MS Access portion of office version 2000. Dan KS6Z/K6FFF ks6z@cox.net

FISTS SPRINT ENTRY FORM

Entry Class QRO _____ QRP _____ CLUB _____

SCORING: _____ QSO points X _____ multipliers = _____ final score

CLUB NAME _____

CLUB FISTS Number _____

YOUR NAME _____ CALL _____

YOUR FISTS Number _____

ADDRESS _____

Email Address(optional) _____

+----->>>MULTIPLIER CHECK-OFF LIST<<<-----+											
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	VE	DX
CT	NY	DE	AL	AR	CA	AZ	MI	IL	CO	NB	NF/LB
MA	NJ	MD	FL	LA		ID	OH	IN	IA	NS	NT
ME		PA	GA	MS		MT	WV	WI	KS	PE	YK
NH			KY	NM		NV			MN	QC	BC
RI			NC	OK		OR			MO	ON	
VT			SC	TX		UT			NE	MB	
			TN			WA			ND	SK	
			VA			WY			SD	AB	

Please enclose paper logs ONLY, photos, comments, ideas, etc., with your entry and mail promptly to: Dan Shepherd, N8IE
 1900 Pittsfield St.
 Kettering, Oh 45420.

Statement: "I have observed all FISTS Sprint competition rules as well as all regulations for Amateur Radio in my country. My report is correct and true to the best of my knowledge. I agree to be bound by the decisions of the FISTS Awards Committee."

Date _____ Signature _____ Call _____

COMMENTS:

Spring Sprint Is Coming 2nd Saturday in May

OBJECTIVE: To exchange specified information with as many FISTS members as possible using Morse Code only, and within the time frame stipulated.

PARTICIPANTS: Any properly licensed amateur radio operator, FISTS member or non-member is invited to take part in the contest. At least one of the two stations in each QSO must be a FISTS member.

DATE AND TIME:

The Spring SPRINT will run from 1700 UTC to 2100 UTC on Second Saturday in May.

Please note times are in UTC, daylight savings time is NOT a factor.

BANDS: Operation is limited to the following amateur bands: 3.5, 7, 14, 21, and 28 MHz amateur bands. Work stations only once per band.

ENTRY CLASSES: There are three entry classes:

QRO: Over 5 watts output power. QRP: 5 watts output power or less.

Club: (regardless of power).

Entry class MUST be shown on logs to be considered for entry in a particular class, or will be assumed QRO. An entry must be ONE class only, no combination of classes is allowed.

EXCHANGE: The following information must be exchanged by both stations to count as a valid contest QSO:

For FISTS members: RST, U.S. state/Canadian province/DXCC country, first name, FISTS number.

For non-FISTS members: RST, U.S. state/Canadian province/DXCC country, first name, Power output.

DX COUNTRY STATUS: U.S. states and Canadian provinces are those states and provinces that are contiguous and found within the North American continent. DX are those entities listed in the current ARRL DXCC publication, other than the above.

MULTIPLIERS: Each U.S. State and Canadian province counts as 1 multiplier. Count each only once, no matter how many times worked.

Each DXCC entity counts as 1 multiplier. Count each only once, no matter how many times worked.

SCORING: Each QSO with a FISTS member: 5 points. Each QSO with a non-FISTS member: 2 points. Final score is total QSO points times multipliers.

CERTIFICATES: U.S./VE: Certificates will be awarded to the first, second, and third place finishers in each Entry Class.

LOG SUBMISSIONS:

Sending the logs is what counts, and they will be spot checked for accuracy and correct scoring procedures. All log entries must be received 30 days after the Sprint to be considered valid. Logs not sent to the proper address will not be considered for entry.

All logs MUST contain the following information to be considered for entry;;

Your name and call sign. Club name if entry is for a club. Your FISTS number if a member.

Entry class. Your claimed score. List of claimed multipliers.

The entry form is the best way to record this information.

ELECTRONIC LOGS:

We will accept E-logs in standard Cabrillo format, or ascii text files. If your not sure about your format, please contact me before the contest entry deadline.

E-logs are sent to W8PIG@yahoo.com ONLY.

PAPER LOGS:

Send log and forms to: **Dan Shepherd, N8IE 1900 Pittsfield St.
Kettering, Oh 45420**



KEY NOTE



<http://www.asel.demon.co.uk/fists-hq/> <http://www.zl6qh.com>
E-Mail HQ: fist1@btinternet.com webmaster: webmaster@asel.demon.co.uk

Sec: E. (Geo) Longden, G3ZQS. 119 Cemetery Rd., DARWEN, BB3 2LZ, England. 01254-703948

OFFICES

OSL Manager: M0AVW
32 Woodford Walk, Harewood Park, TS17 0LT

PRO: G4YLB. J.A. Welsh
3 Minster Cresc, DARWEN, BB3 3PY
CONTEST MANAGER: M5AGL
15a Buckden Rd., BRAMPTON, PE18 4PR

COMMITTEE

Chairman
Vice Chairman
P.R.O.
Secretary

G4XHZ
G4YLB
G4YLB
G3ZQS

Pse keep watch on all Novice allocations
Recommended calling QRGs:
3.558, 7028, 14.058, 21.058, 28.058

AWARDS

e-mail apps/logs to Dennis, K6DF:
<fistsawards@attbi.com>
written logs to HQ.

GREETINGS

We made it and to all of you, a welcome to 2003. Not a lot happened here (as usual) and in fact, during the whole of the Christmas/New Year period there was but one visitor and that was my Daughter picking up my shopping list. Still, the break was appreciated and the HQ station spent a fair amount of time on the air. There was the usual avalanche of greetings cards (mainly but not in every case) accompanying subs or other matters for which I thank you.

Whilst we watched places like Moscow struggle with sub-zero temperatures, here in the UK things were far from seasonal; frequently rising as high as 10c. It was on one of those pleasant mornings when Suzy stood gazing at a mole hill with the intensity of a politician lying to a television camera. I have little doubt that she would have tackled anything that showed itself - this being her nature - which left me wondering why such little acknowledgement has been afforded the gallant Saint Dundee who purged the UK of those ground burrowing crocodiles. His cousin Saint Patrick had earlier banished serpents from Ireland whilst the ill-fated Saint Wally ventured east of the pennines and - this being before the noble Dundee - was nobbled by a ground burrowing crocodile before he could purge the territory of tykes. It's true folks.... I tell you its true!

And talking of true, does anyone offer TRUE reports these days I wonder. Trawling a flat and almost lifeless 20m band I heard "Twee-ti-twee-ti Twee-twee-ti-tweeeee" close to 14058. It migrated LF and it was necessary to switch in the 2KHz filter whilst disabling other selective components in order to keep the signal within the band pass. It finally settled (well sort of) about 14KHz lower and was identified as being of Ukranian origin. Before I could synchronise the TX VFO to warn of the instability, it was answered by a Czech station who unbelievably reported 599. Always regarded the RX section of this FT1000MP as state of the art but I now realised that it had been left behind by a superior technology which seemingly anticipates QRH and adjusts the tuning accordingly. The QSO itself was punctuated by requests for repeats from the OK station and as they

signed off, the tweeter sort of got caught in some ethereal vortex which would surely have delivered him to another QRG (or possibly another band) still issuing the plaintive "twee-ti-twee" en-route. At the risk of appearing uncharitable, there is absolutely NO WAY that rig should have been fired up in the first place and the OK station should have done exactly what I proposed to do and report the disgraceful tone and meandering to the geek who surely must have been monitoring his own tx. Grrrrr!

AWARD SCORES

Could you pse spread the word to your contingent that for the Century series awards, GX0IPX, The ZL Club, call (9600) and the US Club call (10000) will be worth FIVE points starting Jan 1, 2003?

Since we all have club calls now, it makes it more special to make it worth extra points. The US Call right now is KC8VIO, I've applied for a Vanity Call, but don't know which one I'll get yet, we're waiting for the FCC to process the paperwork. 88 de Nancy. I think Dennis (the awards manager) should be credited with this idea or, perhaps both he and Nancy got their heads together but whatever, those queing up for their Century will no doubt appreciate the extra two points. Hi.

F5NQL

These are, received this morning the EUCW 2002 fraternising CW Party results. We are very sorry that only 40 hams had participate. We are more than 25 000 in Europe and elsewhere attending to an EUCW Club. For the first time Guenter hasn't got any SWL log. Bookmark your diary as follow for 2003:

*November, 2003, 15th: 1500-1700 UTC on 40 and 20 m
November 2003, 15th: 1800-2000 UTC on 40 and 80 m
November 2003, 16th: 0700-0900 UTC on 80 and 40 m
November 2003, 16th: 1000-1200 UTC on 40 and 20 m.*

We hope a lot of us in this frat party. F5SGI (Jean-Marc) be active from Groix Island, EU-048 and DIFM AT-012, CW only, on 13-19 April. QSL sure via bureau, or direct.

EUCW QRS RULES

O To encourage newcomers to Morse operating, and as a contribution to the activities of the European CW Association, FISTS CW Club invites all licensed radio amateurs, especially members of EUCW clubs, to take part in the annual EUCW/FISTS QRS Party. This event provides an opportunity for EUCW club members, and non-members, to meet and exchange greetings with each other at a leisurely pace. At the same time it is an opportunity to make contacts qualifying for the prestigious *Worked EUCW* award. Although not a contest in the normal sense of the word, there is a contest element for those who thrive on challenge, with awards for those who score the most points, and a merit award for the "Most Readable Morse Heard" voted for by other contestants.

In this event, taking part is more important than winning, providing fun for all in a non-stressful introduction to a contest-like event for beginners, and an opportunity for more experienced operators to put something back into the hobby by helping and encouraging those less experienced in CW operating. Feedback can only be obtained from contestants' reports so, whatever your level of experience, and even if you only have time to make a few contacts, please make an effort to send in a log.

DATES/TIMES: From 00.01 UTC on the fourth Sunday in April, for one week, to 23.59 UTC on the following Saturday. For 2003, the dates will be **Sunday 27th April to Saturday 3rd May**. **MODE:** CW only.

FREQUENCIES: All bands, except WARC bands. Non-QRP stations are requested to avoid calling CQ on the popular QRP frequencies.

KEYS/SPEEDS: Any type of key or keyer may be used, but no keyboard sending or pre-programmed messages from computers or keyers allowed. Maximum speed 14 words per minute (70 cpm). The speed of a QSO should be at the speed of the slower station

CALL: CQ QRS/EUCW. Stations may be worked or logged once each day in each band used

EUCW CLUBS: Listen out for members of the following clubs, taking part in the EUCW/FISTS QRS Party:

AGCW-DL (Germany); Benelux-QRPC; BTC (Belgium); CFT (Belgium); CT-CWC (Portugal); EACW (Spain); EA-QRPC (Spain); EHSC (Extremely High Speed Club); FISTS; FOC (First Class Operators); G-QRP; GTC (Greece); HACWG (Hungary); HCC (Spain); HSC (High Speed Club); HTC (Switzerland); INORC (Italy); I-QRPC (Italy); ITC (Italy); MCWG (Macedonia); OE-CWG (Austria); OHTC (Finland); OK-QRPC (Czech Republic); RTC (former GDR); SCAG (Scandinavia); SHSC (Super High Speed Club); SP-CWC (Poland); UCWC (Russia); UFT (France); U-QRQC (Ukraine); VHSC (Very High Speed Club); YL-CW-GP (Germany); 3A-CW-G (Monaco); 9ACWG (Croatia).

CLUB MEMBERSHIP: Entrants who are members of more than one EUCW club should take part in the QRS party as a member of only one of those clubs.

CLASSES:

A - Members of EUCW clubs using more than 10w input or 5w output power

B - Members of EUCW clubs using QRP (10w input or 5w output, or less)

C - Non-members of EUCW clubs using any power

D - Shortwave listeners

EXCHANGES:

Class A & B, RST/QTH/Name/Club/membership number

Class C, RST/QTH/Name/NM (ie, not a member)

Class D, Log information for both stations

SCORING:

Class A/B/C - 1 point per QSO with own country, 3 points per QSO with other European countries.

Class D - 3 points for every complete logged QSO.

Multiplier, all classes: 1 multiplier point for each EUCW-club worked/logged per day and band

LOGS: To include date, UTC, band, call worked, info sent, info received, and score claimed for each QSO

SUMMARY: To include entrant's full name, call, address, EUCW club, Class entered, multiplier claimed, total points claimed, station details, including type of key/keyer used, power used, comments (if any) on the event, up to three votes for "Most Readable Morse Heard" (only one vote per station), and signature of entrant.

E-mailed logs and summaries are acceptable, provided they follow the same format as detailed above.

ENTRIES: Send log and summary to:

FISTS/EUCW Contest Manager,

R. Kimpton, M5AGL, 15a Buckden Road,

Brampton, Huntingdon, Cambs. PE28 4PR. England.

e-mail bobm5agl@btopenworld.com .ll logs to be received (by surface mail or e-mail) not later than **31st May 2003**.

AWARDS:

a) A certificate will be awarded to the three top scorers in each class.

b) A certificate of merit will be awarded to the operator receiving most votes for the "Most Readable Morse Heard", provided the operator nominated has also submitted a log. If the recipient of the most votes has not submitted a log the certificate of merit will be awarded to the qualifying entrant with the next highest number of votes. In the event of a tie multiple certificates will be awarded, endorsed "*Shared Award*".

No correspondence can be entered into. The Contest Manager's decision shall be final in making all awards.

NORTHAMPTON RC

Northampton Radio Club is now compiling it's 2003 events program and I am writing to ask you if you would consider providing a speaker to give a presentation about your group at one of our club evenings. Northampton Radio Club, one of the oldest radio clubs in the UK, meets every Thursday Evening in Northampton.

A talk of 30, 45 or 60 minutes would be wonderful and we would provide light refreshments afterwards. We would, of course, re-imburse any out-of-pocket expenses. Northampton has a thriving amateur radio community and the club has members from Wellingborough, Kettering and other areas too.

A talk about your group would be of great interest to our members and would give your organisation the opportunity to publicise it's activities and, perhaps, gain new members from the Northamptonshire region.

This from M0CTC, Secretary of the club who can be contacted on 07111-093390 if any member local to the area would like to oblige.

NEW MEMBERS

The period over Christmas/New Year was thankfully fairly quiet but the following new numbers were issued:

8984	G0STK	Allan	8985	G3JFS	Peter
8986	RX3AP	Yuri	8987	I1LGR	Luigi
8988	G0SOP	Andy	8989	M3NHJY	Keith
8991	IE5EM	Tony	8990	will be re-issued	

asap.

M5AGL

Thank you to everyone who took part in last years activity ladder and the SKW. The new Ladder for 2003 now takes place on the last sunday of the month and is open to all members so, if you sent in a log or just gave points to those taking part in the contest, please can we have your support again. All logs can be sent by post or email to me.

Do spread the word about our contests to other members and please remember these contests are meant to be friendly fun and promote the CW so rubber stamp QSOs are not encouraged. The full list of contests for 2003 is now available from our (EU) web page where all results will be published in addition to Keynote.

Good luck to all and I hope to meet you on the key during 2003 73 de Bob, M5AGL (Contest Manager).

MORSE PRACTICE

You will be pleased to know that I am now formally registered with the RSGB as a foundation lead instructor for Hampshire who can also conduct the CW assessment.

I promise the CW bit will not be at 20 wpm for those of faint heart and I have purchased a nice little straight key for the students to use if they don't have their own for the assessment, and its all looking good.

Courses will invariably be at weekends, and as I am currently teaching three students for the full licence, I shall not be starting any other courses (i.e. foundation) until at least Easter.

Email contact is instructor@ASEL.demon.co.uk or andy.digby@mail.com

Morse continues to be sent on 3.595 (or LF by 5 or 10 depending on QRM) Mon - Thurs from my /p location in Epsom. Next transmission is set for Mon 6th Jan 2003. Listen out for my call to G0LOG and then QRL QRL etc.

I am currently using the Farnsworth method, with inter-character spacing equivalent to 20 wpm and a nice long thinking gap between characters which brings the overall Tx speed down to the required 5 wpm. This will be incrementally increased to reach a full 20 wpm over the next few weeks for those that want a bit more than the minimum test speed.

73's Andy Digby - G0JLX

THE IN-BOX

Other traffic in my in-box has been dealt with previously leaving the following outstanding:

In your KEYNOTE news could you squeeze a few words of praise for the CLUB team at KG4VLC Member stn 9450. They first appeared with their brand new FISTS number on 28/11/02 and returned with a shiny new cc number on 24/12/02 - most commendable. Can any operator or group do the same inside 21 days I wonder? Or has it already been done and went unnoticed? 'Alf' Ramsey (G3UAA) FISTS 5519. Now perhaps Bob (G0FRL) has a better memory than me but I have a sneaking fancy that a CC claim was returned within a week.

Hi Geo,

We have a great news that our member Yang / BV2WG, the chief of North Branch of CTARL, passed the 60WPM examination for the 1st class grade of Taiwan. Now his new callsign is 'BX2AG. BV2WS / Chung

FISTS CW CLUB NEWS LETTER

AWARDS MANAGER

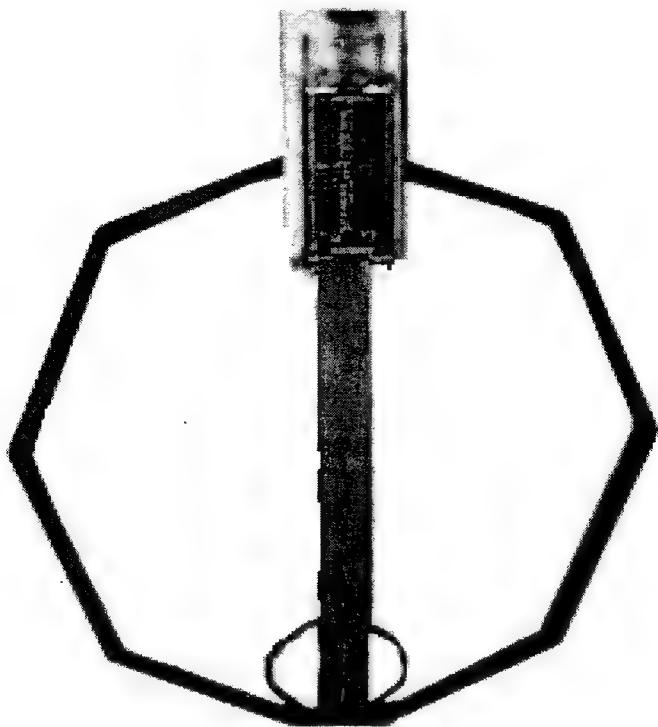
Sorry but I find it necessary to remind you that the awards manager is Dennis, K6DF. This has been so for over a year now but Bob, G0FRL continues to receive claims. As indicated on the banner, your claims may be e-mailed to [<fistawards@attbi.com>](mailto:fistawards@attbi.com) or written claims direct to myself in which case I will advise Dennis via e-mail. There is no charge but those who add a couple of quid as a donation are not spurned. Hi.

And stamps for lists.

We are getting pretty close to excess postage these days with 16 pages but the request for 3 2nd class stamps covers this eventuality with the excess stamps helping offset the cost of printing.

MAG LOOP

It is amazing what can be done with a length of copper tubing and a bit of spare timber. This loft-bound creation covers 20-10 metres and the constructor (G4KKI) plans another version resonant on 80/40/30. Already the basic loop in 22mm tubing spanning 6.5 feet is awaiting the 1000pf variable. He is getting a great deal of satisfaction from the current loop which (due to the limitations of the capacitor) is restricted to 20W.



UT4FJ

Jerry, ex UR5FDM, is out of Ukraine now. Unfortunately, I have lost communications with him for the moment. His call is recently reissued to another person. But I still collect all FISTS Newsletters in e-form and can forward copies for Jerry, if he will be back in Odessa.

It seems, I have won the RSGB Jubilee 2002 contest in overseas CW only assisted section. Thanks to all the FISTS members who worked with me and gave me a good chance to win :). 73! Alex UT4FJ, FISTS #678

Thank you for the info Alex and I must confess that it comes as a surprise that call signs can be re-issued there.

FEBRUARY 2003

ACTIVITY FROM SENEGAL

Hi Friends. Norbert, F6AXX and Anne Marie will be vacationing in Senegal from Jan 25 to Feb 7 in Saly area. The callsign is 6W7/F6AXX and they will be QRV mainly during mornings and evenings on 14035, 18090, 21035, 24105 and 28035. QSL via F6AXX. Further info about Saly and amateur radio activity in Senegal at < www.pleinsud.online.fr/ra.htm> in the French language.

My thanks again to Maurice, F5NQL. He certainly keeps his ear to the ground and these little snippets are I am sure, most appreciated.

THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

G4LJU. Colin spent three weeks in Malta during November with a portable Sony receiver. Heard lots of CW with (not surprisingly) 9H1EL working the DX on 40m via the telescopic whip. Notes the absence of 'lager louts' on the island - a fact which perhaps the Maltese tourist industry could use to good advantage? **GI4CFQ.** An ancient FT200 and a sloper comprises the business end of a dedicated 20m station. Over the past 2 years, Gary has worked over 130 countries 'without really trying' and shedding his previous SSB activity pattern, is happy to declare himself 100% CW. CQ de Call/QRP means (or should mean) "I am QRP" whilst CQ QRP" indicates that the calling station is seeking QRP contacts. Happy with the Schurr paddles and Petterson pump handle. **G3GUR.** Our John sends a photo copy of a confirmatory letter from the British Wireless for the Blind Fund acknowledging his efforts and declaring that he has won a Roberts SSB R9914 Receiver for raising the most money as an individual supporter. A late cheque brought his total to a very impressive £750.50. Well done John. He also points me in the direction of a book "The Victorian Internet" by Tom Standage which fascinated him and causes him to recommend it to anyone who can get hold of it. **M0TDL** Charles is undertaking a QSY in Jan/Feb 2003 and is considering the likelihood of going QRT since all his efforts to QSO anyone have borne little or no fruit. He operates 2 and 6m only and is suspicious that his QRS is the cause of the negative response. Don't think that is the case Charles. Perhaps you would be better looking into the likelihood that either rig or antenna is not performing? **M0ECS.** Confessing that his tally of contacts is not too impressive, he nevertheless derives great pleasure from those that fall into his log. Feeling somewhat embarrassed by the standard of English from many areas of the continent, he has learned to send "Merry Christmas and a happy New Year" in over 350 languages. I also use crib sheets Steve which are called up from my computer log but these are restricted to perhaps half a dozen lingos and are used with caution since I share the embarrassment of other members when their contact assumes they are fully conversant with the alternative language and complete the QSO in a cryptic form. **Hi. M0AIR.** Stephen, having found that QRO tends to have an adverse effect on various domestic electrical installations (including the central heating), has equipped the shack with QRP. He has never heard discouraging comments from stations who find his flea powered signal difficult to copy whilst on the other hand, using SSB he was frequently 'dropped'. Yes there is a difference but, as they say in the badlands, 'There's nowt as queer as folk'.

M0AVW

Chuck asks me to thank those of you who continue to send used postage stamps and also for the large volume of Christmas greetings he received. GW4PUC was the recipient of his award for 2002 acknowledging helpful sorting of submitted QSL cards. Son Nathan (10 yrs) appeared on TV. 3rd prize in mass competition against others much older than himself.

NOV-02 LADDER

November Call	Score	Yearly Call	Total
G4LHI	168	G4LHI	2101
M5ABM	85	G0SCP	2048
G0MRH	71	M5ABN	891
G3VQO	51	M0DRK	226
M0DRK	30	G3VQO	220
M0RHB	22	G0MRH	198
HB9CHE	19	GW0SGG	180
M0CMQ	18	M5AGL	177
OH7QR	18	M3GBT	139
M3GBT	14	OH7QR	129
M5AGL	10	HB9CHE	118
M5BRY	6	M0CMQ	109
M3XGQ	2	M0RHB	39
G0SCP	0	M3XGQ	12
GW0SGG	0	M5BRY	6

and the results for December

G4LHI	151	G4LHI	2252
M5ABN	80	G0SCP	2048
G0MRH	70	M5ABN	971
HB9CHE	45	G0MRH	268
M3GBT	39	M0DRK	264
M0DRK	38	G3VQO	255
G3VQO	35	M5AGL	193
M0RHB	24	GW0SGG	180
M0CMQ	22	M3GBT	178
OH7QR	22	HB9CHE	163
M5AGL	16	OH7QR	151
M5BRY	14	M0CMQ	131
M2XGQ	4	M0RHB	63
G0SCP	0	M5BRY	20
GW0SGG	0	M3XGQ	18

Congratulations to Peter G4LHI 1st, Tom G0SCP 2nd, Peter M5ABN 3rd, who will in due course receive their certificates. On behalf of myself and the past two contest managers, thanks to all those who have submitted logs and to those members who came on air to give points to the above entrants. Please remember the new ladder is now on the last Sunday of each month and a full list of our contests for 2003 is on the Fists HQ home web page or from myself, please include a stamp addressed envelope. Have a good year and I hope to catch you on the key during 2003.

73's de Bob M5AGL.

SCIENCE WEEK 2003

A reminder from the RSGB of the above arrived in the pre-Christmas post. It is undoubtedly an ideal opportunity for your local Amateur Radio Club to bring our hobby to the attention of the public.

The once exciting 'mystique' of radio communication has been dulled through modern techniques. Anyone these days can go to a local source and for a relatively small sum walk out with a mobile telephone which, if you are prepared to fork out the funds, will enable instant communication almost anywhere in the world. We live in an age where information technology is commonplace; where the processes which allow us to shift

megabytes of data in digital form within a time span measured in seconds is almost taken for granted. Are there any surprises left in the field of communication? There will surely be more. Processors now drive your home computer at speeds unimaginable a couple of decades ago and digital technology now gives us noise free, high speed radio and television. Broad band telecommunication although in relative infancy, has spawned modems which handle traffic at dizzying speeds compared to those in use only a few short years previous. So what reason could there possibly be for the existence of Amateur Radio? The same reason that inspires millions of

people to gather up interlocking lengths of split bamboo every weekend and sit shivering on a river bank when their quarry is available pre-packed at the local supermarket. The same urge that causes untold numbers to balance on thin sheets of steel at the ice rink and go absolutely nowhere whilst their personal four-wheeled steed waits in the car park. It is basic, it is FUN. Yes, that is the magic word I am sure and GB4FUN will be abroad in our towns and cities during March to engage toddlers and wrinklies alike and prove that re-inventing the wheel can be a whole lot of joy.

Science week runs from 7/16 March and whether you endeavour to involve your local club or go it alone, help is available from <www.rsgb.org/scienceweek>.

FINALE

G0JOH was inadvertently allocated a new number (8990) when in fact he was a re-join. Any members logging him with that number please amend to read 2282.

Chaos reigned during the past month. The colour printer went belly up and I spent the best part of a week fixing it and Ivy is back in hospital (regular evening visits mandatory)

73/88 people. Have fun and stay sober. Geo..

March 2003 DX KeyNote by G3ZQS

GREETINGS

Back to winter again after a promising period which showed possibilities of an early spring. Uuuugh! Still, all is not doom and gloom. The HF bands are opening periodically during daylight hours which must be good news to the many who are chasing elusive CC numbers.

Here in West Lancashire, we have thus far been fortunate with only a couple of centimetres of snow but even this has been enough to cause some serious disruption in traffic movement. It barely covered Suzy's tiny paws but we had north bound traffic backed up as far as was visible whilst the southbound stuff was proceeding at little more than walking pace. In contrast, pictures from Finland with half a metre or more of the fluffy white stuff showed traffic flowing at a merry old pace. Where are we going I wonder?

Had a couple of reports of last months' Chirpy Charlie - seems few indeed were bothering to monitor the bands - but the good thing is that such occurrences are now becoming quite a rarity with some pretty good commercial gear finding its way into Eastern Europe. Meanwhile the QRP brigade is becoming much more conspicuous especially on 40m with some very superior stuff like the Elecraft K2 and its super stable VFOs. I am constantly surprised at the stability of some of the QRP kit these days.

REMINDER KOKUP

It all started last month when I picked up a new laser printer (the Brother 1850 with duplex attachment). This has certainly eased my workload but the reminder slips which were formatted for the old A3 pinter clearly would not work on an A4 job. However, there in the same directory was an A4 version and I promptly printed out a batch from this without checking. It harked back to the days when the Post Office operated two separate rates for Europe - EEC and the rest - and these went out unnoticed quoting subs of £6.00 for the EEC and £7.00 for

the rest of Europe. You will be aware that since those days, a single postal rate has been fixed Europe-wide which increased the cost of mail to the EEC whilst at the same time, marginally reducing those to the rest of Europe. The result was that a lot of members sent £6.00 for their subs when £5.00 was the correct rate. Failing to notice the errant reminder slip on the first few, I assumed the extra to be a donation and routinely sent listings to acknowledge.

When the penny did finally drop, I went through these excess payments and added a couple of months to the renewal date. Sorry about that folks but I trust the above action will serve to compensate.

PRINTER

Yes, I finally got round to supplementing the trusty A3 laser printer with a robust A4 but hardly had this been done when the Epson A3 inkjet started giving me serious problems after over two years of good service. Went through half a dozen ink cartridges in order to restore the black and spent the best part of a week attempting to blast the printheads clean with a special 'cleaning' cartridge. I finally succeeded in this but all that cleaning emptied the colour cartridge and on replacing it, the black failed again and with a brand new full cartridge. Thoroughly fed up with all this I swore I would not touch another Epson inkjet with a barge pole and went in search of a replacement. A comparative newcomer to the HP range was purchased and it took barely two minutes to highlight a serious snag. There was an unduly excessive bottom margin beyond which no ink could be laid. Wouldn't even complete the bottom row of a sheet of labels. Phone calls to HP produced no solution - there was simply no fix on the software for this problem unlike the Epson which permitted over-riding the margin limitation and printing to within 5mm of any edge. The HP was returned and having already wasted two days of

frantic running around, my faith in anything other than Epson was thoroughly shaken so a tolerably heavy duty Epson C82 found its way onto my desk. In terms of the default bottom margin, it was even more restrictive than the HP but the same software option existed as on the original so I managed to clear a small backlog of QSL cards and labels.

The cartridges themselves are more expensive than the originals but the difference is such that it is not necessary to adjust the price of Cards. A bonus is that the new Dura-ink used has a no-fade figure of over 90 years and it is also declared to be waterproof.

NEEDS INFO

I am ZL2OB fists club 9092 from Feilding in New Zealand. I am seeking assistance to locate details on the clandestine radio the ;Paraset; circuit diagrams and panel layout are in the Tec Topics november 1982 page 961. I obtained these details from the Tec

topics book 1990 to 1994 on page 304. My object is to construct an o-perating replica. I have had no success to locate this info here in NZ and would appreciate any help.
Des O'Brien 133 Makino Rd Feilding NZ

THE SOURCELESS ENQUIRY

Another mystery raises it's head in the form of an enquiry from someone in Berkshire. Would like to learn more about FISTS etc and could I please send him an application form. Snag is that the only ID is an indecypherable signature - no return address and no callsign. Anyone think they know this guy would they pse ask him to try again.

FISTS AWARDS

For those of you who have reached the end of the line in respect of awards, there are a number which are US oriented though I am sure claims would be very welcome:

Mobile Award

Attained by accumulating 100 points from 2-way CW QSOs whilst mobile as from 1 Sept 1998. Same requirements as for the Century award.

Worked all States Award

Work all 50 states in continental US for this one. Stations worked must be FISTS members at the time of contact. Check sheet available from the US website or via Dennis, K6DF. Those not QRV on the web LMK and I will QSP.

Rag chewers Award

Make 100 2-way CW QSOs each lasting at least 30 minutes with another FISTS member on/after 1 Sept 1998. Duplicate contacts are valid but they must be made on different dates. You may apply for this award only once.

1 x QRP Award

Earned by working 100 points with FISTS members whilst you are operating QRP (5 watts or less). FISTS operating from the same country as yourself are worth 1 point and those in other countries (as defined by DXCC rules) are worth 2 points. Club stations yield 3 points. No mention here of National Club stations which under CC would be worth 5 points but will clarify if necessary.

2 x QRP Award

Conditions as above except that both stations must be running QRP as defined above.

MID-CHESHIRE ARS

I am asked to advise you that the above club will be hosting a Radio Rally on Bank Holiday Monday, 5 May 2003 at Winsford Civic Hall. Contact David, G4XUV on 01606-77787.

ZL NATIONAL FISTS CALL

In company with the US gang, Ralph - ZL2AOH - advises me that he has applied for ZL6FF which will serve as a club call for awards purposes.

INTERFERENCE PBLM SOLVED

GW4KUS had a problem with RF screwing up his computer logging prog and wrote:

Transmitter interfered with Logging programme.

Remedied by:- winding abt 6 turns of the Keyboard lead on 5/8 inch ferrite rod; secured with self amal insult tape. OR - by max turns on 1.5 inch dia; ferrite ring. Hi !!

I must look into this more closely - I get a little patterning on my 17inch TFT screen but more annoyingly, prominent thumps and bangs on the AF amplifier when running on 40m.

F5NQL

Again our trusty Maurice comes up with a few interesting items:

TM6

Book your diary with this updated topic received to day from Jean Marc, F5SGI who will be on Groix Island (IOTA EU048, DIFM AT012) from April 7th to 12th, using CW with the special callsign : **TM6ILE** from 80 to 10 meters

His stay was previously dated from April 14th to 20th). QSL via bureau or direct

Code tests

Maurice culled an the following from the ARRL newsletter: A six-year-old girl from Roseburg, Oregon, has upgraded from Technician to General. Mattie Clauson, KD7TYN—a fourth-generation Amateur Radio operator in her family—could be the youngest General-class operator in the US. Her new ticket was granted January 13. Now then... who is complaining that the CW test is hard work???

G0JLX

Just a note to tell you that I have (finally) got my own home page sorted out.

<http://www.asel.demon.co.uk/g0jlx/> will find it, or you can do a search for the link page on QSL.net

Andy of course as most of you will know is our webmaster doing a find job of keeping our EU web page in order and running the email keynote operation. Please remember that the lad is *extremely* busy working for a living and generally speaking only has the weekends available so please keep enquiries or problems to a minimum. He will do what he can to help in the event of problems but can find his in-box overflowing most weekends with several hundred emails.

QRM ON 80M

Most nights on 3.558 I hear an electronically generated female voice phonetically announcing "Kilo Delta Alpha Two" repeatedly. It may disappear for about 10 to 20 minuets but then reappear, annoyingly, right in the middle of a QSO. I have asked around but no one seems to know what it is. Any other FISTS members suffered this and have any clue what it is?

Thanks for your help

Vy best 73 de John (MOTIF member 7130)

To be honest John, I haven't got the vaguest idea what this stuff is. Frequently enough it is sufficiently strong to screw up a QSO but in any event I usually QSY down until it is just out of the 500Hz bandpass. Wonder if any of the gang are better informed?

LISTINGS

A degree of confusion here. Please remember that UK/Europe, US and ZL each use a block of 100 numbers until exhausted. They then adopt the next *free* block which frequently means they are leapfrogging the other two chapters. Sounds unnecessarily complicated but it works fine.

Also, there are duplicated numbers. This accommodates members who have more than one callsign so don't get into a flap if whilst scanning the list you find these seeming anomalies.

DATONG FL2 AF FILTER

This is a cracking piece of kit for those with no DSP or sharp cw filters. I have one here for disposal - a donation from G4YSQ to club funds - which (unlike my own FL2) works perfectly. It was originally intended to be used at a rally either raffle or auction but these days, it is rare indeed that I can make an appearance. Tentative stabs at evaluation varied between £30 and £50 so if those interested would care to make a bid, it is waiting here for you at HQ. It is complete with destructions and all connections and arrangements can be made either to post or pick up.

HAPPY EASTER

Steve, M0ECS asserts that he has **not** learned all those phrases. Like my-self I guess he calls up a crib sheet but for those who may wish to offer Easter greetings he gives:

Croatian Sretan uskr

Czech Vesele vanoce

Danish God påske

Dutch Gelukkig paasfeest

French Joyeuses pâques

German Frohe ostern

Hungarian Boldog husveti ünnepek

Italian Buona pasqua

Lithuanian Linksmu velyku

Macedonian Sreken veligden

Maltese L-Ghid it-Tajjeb

Norwegian God påske

Polish Wesolych swiat

Portuguese Boa pascoa

Spanish Felices pascuas

Swedish Glad påsk

For loads more common phrases and greetings in a variety of languages operators can check out the web address: www.nypf.org/branch/central_units/d/f/useful.htm. Alternatively, if it is not the sort of thing to publish, FISTS members can email me at fists@m0ecs.waitrose.com and I will email them back the list in Word 7 format. I would be very interested to know the greeting in any missing European languages.

Note that accented chars people and of course, offer your greetings at the end of a QSO otherwise you may be lumbered with a stream of unintelligible data on the assumption that you are comfortable with the language. Hi.

AMATEUR RADIO FORUM

I have received an invitation from the RA to attend either the LEEDS forum on 27 March or the BRISTOL forum on 29 March. It is of course not possible for me to attend at either of these venues so if any-one local to them would care to sit in and report it would be most appreciated.

"The events will allow amateurs to ask questions on any aspects of radio use involving the RA - topics will include the uptake of Foundation Licences, WCR policy announcements, in fact any area of amateur policy you would like to discuss. I will be there with Denise Carter and colleagues from RA HQ, the local Regional Offices will be represented, and members of

the RSGB and other bodies will be on hand to put their points of view.

Each event begins with registration and lunch from 12 noon, with the formal proceedings starting at 1pm and ending at 4pm. There is no charge, but places are limited and tickets will be issued on a 'first-come' basis. So book early, and let us know if you are unable to attend so your place can be re-allocated. If you need to bring a carer, please indicate on the booking form and ensure that he or she remains for the duration of the meeting.

The Amateur Radio Fora have been set up in response to comments that the RA Roadshows are too business-oriented. The fora are your meetings - we want to hear your views as well as tell you about new developments."

Sadly, someone at the RA has been reading too much American pulp and the application form requesting Name, address etc., is headed "**Yes please!**" Alright... it is a personal bogey but I just hate people assessing my level of intelligence by writing what they want me to say on the assumption that I am unable to do this for myself and expecting me to endorse it. Grrrrrr!

THE DX STUFF

23 March/10 April, 9Y4/DL7DF, Trinidad/Tobago

26 March/6 April, 3D2IZ, Fiji

There are others noted but not specifically CW. This info incidentally is driven from "Announced DX operations. HTM" and a search for this string on Google, Yahoo etc., should provide a link.

ODDS 'N ENDS

Change of Call

Please note that M5AFS is now M0GYM and M1TOP is now M3TOP. Guess we don't have too many QRX for the test!

Photos

Managed (finally) to download a .JPG attachment from 9A land but insufficient space this month. JPG files are OK as long as the original is good. Please remember that any shortcomings in the original photograph is accentuated by any compression processes. As a guide, I tend to scan photographs with a resolution of 600dpi since this resolution is used for the plates.

Spoof warnings

T'was over 6 months ago that I received one advising that I delete a file (jdbgmgr.exe) completely. I played safe and moved it to a floppy. Next day the truth emerged so curing the problem was easy.

NEW MEMBERS

8990	MW0CHZ	Dafydd	8992		
2E0AVK	Roy				
8993	G3MNS	Ian	8994	EI4JD	Mark
8995	M3JRI	John	8996	G3MYZ	Peter
8997	G4PRL	Roy	8998	9V1VV	John
8999	F5DEL	JeanPierre	9800	GM4GZQ	John
9801	SWL5	Andrew	9802	M3PBZ	Pat
9803	2E0IFJ	Anthony			

Please note that 8990 is a replacement from last month. Note also that from 8999 we leapfrogged to the 9800 series. It will not be too long before I will have to change the space allocations for numbers to 5 digits. Heck! I never dreamed this would happen but then again, CW is a much more popular mode than some would like us to believe.

THE LADDER JAN 2003

CALL	PTS	CALL	PTS
G3VQO	70	G4LHI	65
G4AQZ	57	M5ABN	56
M5AGL	27	GW0SGG	17
M0AYI	14	OH7QR	14
M0DRK	14	M0RHB	14
HB9CHE	8	M0CMQ	8

Its ladder time again, and for the first one of the year Conditions seemed to be good, as contacts have been made across the bands. A few of the contestants found the special club station KN0WCW for the three points. Lets hope more club stations will be active in February.

The majority of those on air seemed to be pleased with the new format, as it is hoped that now every one would have the same opportunity to partake.

Well done to Les G3VQO who was working as F/G3VQO/P. He managed to work 69 French stations for his 70 points. Thanks to all who took part. Logs are most welcome, even if you only came on air to support the contestants we would like to receive a log from you. M5AGL.

FINALE

Sorry am a wee bit late this month people. This is principally due to the problems with that ink-jet printer but now hopefully I can get on with the business. Hi. Still have the problem of keeping up with new members, subs, QSL cards and labels etc and a missing week as happened this month slices a couple of rungs off the ladder.

10 and 15m continues to open to the US from here in Europe periodically so keep a lookout please.

73/88 and stay sober.

Geo

US SPRINTS

Must hold up my hands. Never was quite sure what these were and pictured a grassed track with hams clutching their rigs and heading for a finishing tape. However, there are quite a few of them which I had thought were strictly domestic. To dispel any suspicions that I am partisan, I will keep you up to speed when information comes to hand since Nancy and the US gang appear anxious that join in the fun.



FISTS CW CLUB "DOWN UNDER"

Newsletter – March 2003

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QSL Manager for ZL6FF: Chas Dawson, ZL3CED, 26, Taranaki Drive, Woodend, North Canterbury 8255.

Visit our Web Site: <http://fistsdownunder.morsekeys.com>

SUGGESTED H/F CALLING FREQUENCIES

(160M) – 1.808MHz, (80M) – 3.528MHz, (40M) – 7.028MHz, (30M) – 10.118MHz, (20M) – 14.058MHz, (17M) – 18.085MHz, (15M) – 21.058MHz, (12M) – 24.918MHz, (10M) – 28.058MHz. Novice - Sub Bands: (15M) – 21.158MHz, (10M) – 28.158MHz.

Members are reminded that the above frequencies are suggested calling frequencies. If they are busy, it is suggested that once establishing contact with a station, it may be prudent to QSY (change frequency) down the band, avoiding other known clubs calling frequencies, namely +035khz, +052khz, +056khz, and +060khz.

PROPOSED OPERATING TIMES & FREQUENCIES FOR ZL6FF - MARCH 2003

ZL3CED-Charlie-#9039 will be QRV as ZL6FF as follows – 5 points for first contact!

Date Frequency Time UTC

Tuesday 4 March 2003 - 10.118 MHz 0700 to 0900

Tuesday 11 March 2003 - 10.118 MHz 0700 to 0900

Tuesday 18 March 2003 - 3.528 MHz 0800 to 0900

Tuesday 25 March 2003 - 3.528 MHz 0800 to 0900

NEW MEMBER

We welcome the following new member:

VK5BSC – Brian Cooper # FISTS 9601. Brian hails from Peterborough in South Australia. Seems you've broken the drought Brian, as you are our first VK5 member. You'll have to pass the word around your neck of the woods and see if we can attract a few more VK5 members.

He was introduced to FISTS by VK2MQX – Chris # 9057, during an on-air contact. Brian is principally a CW operator on 80 metres.

VISITOR TO NEW ZEALAND / AUSTRALIA

G3KMG – David Plumridge, FISTS # 0124, with wife Rita and two American friends, plan a whistle stop tour of New Zealand during March. To quote David – “It would be a shame not to pass up the once in a lifetime opportunity to meet other ZL’s, especially Fists members. Any meetings would sadly have to be brief as my companions are not into radio! I’ll list the locations of our overnight stops in the hope that you know of any ZL’s who may live nearby, and would welcome a short eyeball QSO - with an ancient G3.”

March 10/11: Auckland, 12th: Russell, 13th: Whangarei, 14th: Hamilton, 15th: Otorohanga, 16th: Taupo, 17th: Palmerston North, 18/19: Wellington, 20th: Kaikoura, 21/22: Christchurch, 23rd Dunedin, 24th: Invercargill, 25/26: Manapouri, 27th: Queenstown, 28th South Westland, 29th: Karoro, 30th: Christchurch-Avondale.

Following this, they then travel to Hobart, Tasmania followed by Melbourne. Perhaps our VK7 and VK3 members could organise a get together. David will be bringing a 2 metre handheld with him and will be active through the repeaters. Members are asked to make a note of when David is in your area and are requested to try to get a group together to meet him. He has a list of all ZL members on the tour route, so expect a telephone call from him.

At 11am on Tuesday March 18, David will be passing through Otaki and is planning to visit - Nigel, ZL2TX # 9040, for morning tea / lunch. With the above in mind, any FISTS Members in the Wellington Area, are invited to attend. Address in Mast head. Please advise Nigel if you will be attending, by telephone (06) 364-5202 or E-mail zl2tx@ianz.co.nz – so that numbers for lunch will be known. A plate would be appreciated.

VK / ZL MEMBERS NEWS

ZL1BRS – Syd # 9013, has re-located from Ettrick to Middlemarch with new telephone and fax numbers. Check the accompanying membership list. We hope that the new QTH is a good one for DX, Syd. Maybe you will now be able to work those G stations!

ZL3CED – Chas # 9039, (from NZART reflector) - de from the end of the woods...(Woodend, North Canterbury) Reverse DXing does work...Calling CQ on CW (naturally) this arvo on 20m and low and behold 4K6CD & VP5/N2IEN answered me within 20 minutes of each other. Yikes that’s kind of scary, 2 new countries in 20 minutes and no pile ups to compete with...As I have been out of email circuit for a couple of months due to PC failure, can anyone enlighten me re QSL info for VP5/N2IEN. At a guess I assume it would be to his home call. Hope I haven’t started something here on reverse dx-ing like I did last year with vertical antennas!! Chas.

ZL1RGR – Gwynne # 9028, has a new call sign and is now **ZL1AAR**.

ZL1CDX – Geordie # 9048, reports that he has succumbed to the computer age and now has E-Mail. He can be reached at : - zl1cdx@xtra.co.nz

The following members are thanked for the generous donations made when renewing their subscriptions.

ZL1AAR – Gwynne # 9028. ZL1MAD – Dusty # 9051, ZL2BIL – Bill # 9003.

OVERSEAS MEMBERS’ NEWS

2E0BGD-Brian # 7741, writes from the ancient city of Bath: Great to hear from you again and thank you for the February edition, what a super effort, so much detail and interest brilliant reading, well done! I wonder out of curiosity whether any of your members served with the Royal Air Force and did their CW Morse radio training at RAF Compton Bassett, Wiltshire, in the UK. I was there in 1952 doing a part of my National Service and 48 years later I took my CW Ham test after self-revising for a few weeks, and passed 12 wpm! Pass on my 73; keep up the great work.

G0SCP – Tom # 4885, in an E-Mail says “I just wanted to say that I received your FISTS “Down Under” newsletter with great interest, together with the nice “Pikky’s” Well it’s been a long time since I had a contact with ZL LAND Hi! I have printed off the six pages and am getting them copied to send to Alf, G3UAA # 5519. Just before I typed this, I had a QSO with KN0WCW, plus his own call. So a nice Bonus of 7 points, thanks to you for the info Hi! Hope it’s not too late to wish you all a Happy 2003. (You should hear plenty of us in the Commonwealth CW Contest Tom – if you can make it. - Ed)

FISTS CLUB BADGES

We have received a new supply of FISTS Club badges; so don’t hesitate to send in your order. To obtain them, in New Zealand send five 40-cent stamps to Ralph ZL2AOH. In Australia send five 50-cent stamps to Chris VK2MQX. Addresses are at the masthead.

QSL MANAGER DATABASE

(Thanks to DX4WIN logbook reflector and Pete’s DX Newsdesk) ON6DP offers a huge up to date QSL Manager Database available for FREE. It can be easily downloaded in several formats on <http://www.dd3kf.de/on6dp.htm> and you may even subscribe to a mailing list to keep your files up to date... 73 de Egbert ON4CAS / NITOI UBA Award Manager <http://www.on4cas.tk>

COMMONWEALTH CW CONTEST – 2003

10:00 hrs UTC 8 March 2003 to 10:00 hrs UTC 9 March 2003. Exchange is: RST + serial number. - Work all Commonwealth call areas, except your own area. Bands: 3.5 MHz, 7 MHz, 14 MHz, 21 MHz and 28 MHz Logs to: **G3UFY, 77 Bensham Manor Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey CR77 AF, England.** Or by e-mail to: - commonweath.contest.logs@rgsbhfcc.org Information available at : - www.rgsbhfcc.org All entrants who work a total of 66 or more band call areas will be eligible for a certificate. Note: VK2 worked on all five bands, counts as 5 Band Call Areas. 5 points are made for each contact, with a bonus multiplier of 20 points for the first three stations in each call area, per band.

AUSTRALIAN TIME ZONES

Recently we were asked by a member in the United States to explain the time zones and the application of daylight saving time in Australia. Our research revealed it was a complicated business. We thought it would interest our readers; even those in Australia might be surprised by the results! New South Wales, Australian Capital Territory, Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia all keep summer time although start dates are not standardised. Tasmania starts summer time first Sunday in October. The others start on the last Sunday in October. They all finish on the last Sunday in March. Queensland, Northern Territory and West Australia keep to standard time throughout the year.

The standard times are (hours ahead of UTC)

New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, Australian Capital Territory, Queensland -10 h

South Australia, Northern Territory - 9h 30m

West Australia - 8 h

Some of the settlements in WA on the road between the South Australian border and Perth have local times depending on their longitude.

Norfolk Island is 11h ahead of UTC and does not observe summer time

Lord Howe Island is on New South Wales time but only advances 30 minute for summer time

Broken Hill is in New South Wales but observes South Australian time. *"We said it was complicated, didn't we!"*

For the information of our overseas readers, in New Zealand, our standard time is 12 hours ahead of G.M.T. or U.T.C. and the Chatham Islands time is 12h 45 m ahead of UTC. Apart from penguins sitting on the Antarctic ice shelf, we are the first in the world to see the rising sun. We turn our clocks forward one hour on the first Sunday in October and turn clocks back one hour on the third Sunday in March. An interesting aspect of New Zealand industrial law: - If, due to turning the clocks forward, an employee works less hours than they would normally work, they must be paid for the hour lost. If, due to turning the clocks backwards, an employee works more hours than they would normally work, they must be paid for the extra hour at the rate normally paid for excess hours worked.

PROFILE

VK3CGB – CHRIS # 9087.

I cannot recollect exactly when my interest in radio actually started. I can remember my days as a youngster building crystal sets that were switchable, between medium and long wave and I recall the variations that I tried out. I can also recall spending many hours listening to short wave radio stations and to ships in the English Channel on 2182 KHz. My first contact with amateur radio was with a local station (then GC2FZC – Walter) who, when he operated on AM, would swamp the crystal sets I built; and for those who did not know, the GC prefix was allocated at that time to stations in Guernsey, Channel Islands.

Anyway, after studying Chemical Engineering at Loughborough University of Technology, I decided to migrate to Australia, and with my wife Carol, arrived in Sydney on the Queens Birthday in 1970. However, by then my interest in radio had diminished and was not rekindled until I ventured into the turkey farms of CB radio in 1980.

I did not like this mode of operation and quickly set about securing my novice license. During the time I had this class of license, I can remember operating CW and having many QSOs with a good friend and monitor, Clive from Myrtleford (whose call sign eludes me now). Unfortunately he is now a silent key, but I am very grateful for his assistance and infinite patience. Anyway, I did not stay a novice for long, and finally obtained my full call license - but initially I did not use CW.

My family and work commitments, did not provide me with much time for radio operations, and up until my retirement some 16 months ago, I was only a SSB operator. However, a combination of meeting up again with David, VK3DBD, and a real desire to get back into CW, saw me re-enter the CW world. So here I am, in Stanley, NE Victoria, the home of many apple orchards and nut trees. With my CW, I am continually trying to move the goal posts of speed and accuracy. My next objective is to master the art of using a paddle and to further improve my confidence, when operating CW.

So if you hear me on the bands, then please give me a call. - Chris.

WHO SAYS MORSE IS DIFFICULT?

(Item per favour Q-NEWS, Australia.)

A six-year-old girl from Oregon, has upgraded from Technician to General Class. Mattie Clauson, KD7TYN - a fourth-generation Amateur Radio operator in her family - could be the youngest General-class operator in the US. "The Element 3 test was a lot harder than the Tech test," she said. She was ambivalent about the 5 WPM Element 1 Morse code exam, characterising it as "Not too hard, just a little, but kind of easy too." Mattie says she prefers HF, to VHF. "Because I can talk to people in other countries." Her parents, AC7SP and KD7QZB, say Mattie became interested in Amateur Radio, when she was five. They discovered "a kid-friendly study book," Ride the Airwaves with Alpha and Zulu by John Abbott, K6YPB.

Unfortunately "Ride the airwaves..." is currently out of print.

ANY INFORMATION REQUESTED

Unfortunately we have recently had to remove ZL1DQ-Jae-#9047 and VK2DHC-Fred-#9030 from the list of members "Down Under". After they failed to respond to correspondence and considerable efforts on the part of several members to trace them, we have reluctantly deleted them - we hate doing that. If any members have contact with them, please ask them to get in touch with one of us at any of the addresses on the masthead. Thank You in anticipation!

SILENT KEY – Bill Pierpoint – N0HFF – FISTS # 1239

In reporting the death of N0HFF -Bill Pierpoint-#1239, WZ8C- Nancy-#0379 wrote: As many of you know, Bill Pierpont was the author of The Art and Skill of Radio-Telegraphy. His generous gesture of distributing this book freely on the Internet and published at no profit to himself, allowed this inspirational and educational publication to be enjoyed by hams all over the world. He made a major contribution to Amateur Radio and will be missed. A message of condolence on behalf of FISTS Down Under has been sent to Bill's family. We received the following reply from his brother Ken Pierpoint KF4OW.

"Thanks for those words of condolence. Rest assured they will be passed on to his wife and daughter. This morning, I mailed, by overnight express-mail, printouts of all the E-mail messages that I have already received here. They have come from Bill's friends, from all over the globe. I thought they would be most helpful to Enid in the next few days, to learn of the loving concerns and gratefulness for what her husband, had meant to them. It has been amazing to learn how much influence my brother Bill, has had in this great hobby of Ham Radio! "

Photo : The Eddystone Bug Key and Marconi Straight Keys of David, G3KMG, # 0124.

We would like to increase the content of this section by recruiting new members. Attached to this newsletter is a copy of our promotional leaflet. Please use it to persuade one or more of your friends to join us. Additional copies can be photocopied (or printed by those receiving this by e-mail.)

FISTS CW CLUB "DOWN UNDER"

Newsletter – February 2003

(to save space I'm omitting the header -See the March Issue on previous pages for current contact info- -de WZ8C)

ZL6FF – FISTS # 9600

As reported in the last "Late Extra" of Down Under, New Zealand members now have a Club Station, ZL6FF – FISTS # 9600. Operation commenced very soon after the last newsletter, with Charlie, ZL3CED, activating the call on 10 and 18 MHz (18 QSO's), Dusty, ZL1MAD, 7 and 14MHz (23 QSO's) and Ralph, ZL2AOH, 7 and 21MHz (3 QSO's). No doubt many more will follow. Members looking for this station should listen around the bands as the suggested calling frequencies above may not be used due to the QRM (Interference) factor.

ZL6FF – QSL MANAGER AND POLICY

ZL3CED-Charlie-#9039 has kindly undertaken the role of QSL manager for ZL6FF.

Cards from FISTS members can be sent through the FISTS QSL bureau.

Non Members can QSL through their bureau and via the (ZL) N.Z.A.R.T. Bureau or direct to:

Charlie Dawson ZL3CED, 26 Taranaki Drive, Woodend, North Canterbury 8255.

The policy adopted for direct replies to overseas stations is as follows. If one I.R.C. or U.S. \$1 enclosed, the reply will be by "Economy Air Mail". If two I.R.C. or two U.S. \$1 enclosed, then the reply will be by "Air Mail".

Charlie's phone number is 0-3-312-7224 and e-mail address dawsonnz@paradise.net.nz

Charlie has generously donated a batch of 750 ZL6FF QSL cards for which we are extremely grateful.

NEW MEMBER

We welcome the following new member: -

ZL3CE – Ian Hewson – FISTS # 9099, who hails from Pines Beach, Kaiapoi, just north of Christchurch. A little confusion could result here as we also have Charlie ZL3CED as a member from Woodend, which according to my maps is only 7 km north of Pines Beach. (Hope the QRM between you two is not too much! – Ed). Ian is a very early member of R.N.A.R.S. # 0158 and also O.T.C.

YELLOW DOTS

Some of the New Zealand members, had a yellow dot on the front of their last postal newsletter envelope. Just to explain – it was to alert myself, that you have no computer facilities and to remind me to include the latest updated call sign listings in your envelope. (No you weren't being branded as a coward – unfortunately it was the only coloured stick – on, I had available! – Ed).

NATIONAL CLUB STATIONS

Dennis, K6DF, the FISTS Awards Manager informs us that **National Club Stations will count 5 points** for all FISTS Awards. So far the National Club Stations are: **GX0IPX, KN0WCW and ZL6FF**. All other Club Stations count 3 points.

DOWNUNDER FISTS AWARDS

(27/07/2002 to 03/12/2002)

Congratulations to the following Down Under Members on gaining the following Awards:-

ZL1BLR (Basic Century), **ZL1BRS** (Silver Century and Platinum Awards), **ZL1MAD** (Platinum Award)

ZL2BLQ (Gold Century Award and Platinum Awards)

DOWN UNDER MEMBERS' NEWS

VK6AV-Harris-#9081, in sending New Year greetings wrote: Due to poor propagation I have heard very few FISTS stations here on 20 (my favourite band). However, on Dec. 21 I contacted several FISTS members in Taipei in succession, BV2WS # 8977 BX2AG #8978 and BV2WR #8981. I have my hand key at the ready and hope to make a few contacts on the ARRL SKN on New Years Day. Best wishes for 2003.

ZL1CDX-Geordie-#9048, in renewing his subscription sent a generous donation. **Iain, ZL2ZLW, # 0012**, sent a donation of stamps. Many thanks Geordie and Iain.

ZL1DD – Barry # 9029, reports receiving a Christmas present, which no doubt he will put to good use!

[NZDXR] "ON4UN's Low Band Dxing".

Almost worth it, for this quote from the introduction alone: "During the 20th century, Amateur Radio has been a hobby full of magic. The sense of discovery, of adventure, was dominant. Unfortunately today, at the advent of the 21st century, this sense of magic is largely vanishing. When young kids, see you operate your Ham Station, they may actually comment, "Well, I can do just as well with my cellular phone." The world is indeed at the fingertips of everyone these days. As for discovering the world, for global communications, it's hard to beat the Internet. We're living in an ever faster changing world now!

Amateur Radio is no longer in the first place, about communications. It is about technology, about education, about friendship, about experimentation. This is what it was always intended to be. Undoubtedly, Amateur Radio will survive, for its one and only valid reason.

I think we have a responsibility: we must show youngsters visiting our stations, the magic that once thrilled us, and share with them the fascination of our hobby. One or two decades ago, we were all fascinated by the new world of digital electronics. Let's show the young kids, the fascinating world of RF electronics. Today, RF engineers are a dying species. We can help preserve this species.

We have the responsibility to bring Amateur Radio into the 21st century in the right way, by introducing new people into the hobby." Incidentally I bought my book from Amazon.com, they quoted \$19US second hand, and the one I got looks brand new. Origin was powells.com who seem to have a good selection of radio books in their "communications" section.

VK2MQX – Chris # 9057 - Our postage rates have gone up over here from 45c to 50c! The post offices have run out of 5c stamps because so many people still have the 45c ones and they thought people didn't use the post as much because of e-mail etc. - What a joke. Ralph tells me ZL's domestic rates are still 40c.

Chris makes a plea to members active on 21 and 28 MHz. Please listen on the Novice frequencies of 21.158 and 28.158MHz as this is where I'll be.

ZL2AOH – Ralph # 1073, reports on a very successful Quartz Hill (ZL6QH) open day and barbeque, held on Sunday 19 January. Over 25 people attended to see for themselves, what the big antennas could do. A demonstration by Ralph of the new 5 w.p.m. N.Z.A.R.T. Morse Testing software was held. One Old Timer commented "You just about go to sleep between the characters!" The prize for the farthest travelled went to Lee, ZL2AL, who motored down from Hastings, to attend the event.

ZL2TX – Nigel # 9040, received a pleasant surprise when he answered the door recently. His visitors were none other than Stan Mangin, ZL2BLQ # FISTS 9068, and his wife Nola. We had a lot to catch up on, as Stan was one of my students in the Amateur Radio classes I held, in the Wairarapa when we lived over there. How time flies – Stan calculated that was 22 years ago! In those days Stan was a dedicated CB'er, but having passed his licence it wasn't long before he started to try Morse Code. Now a

dedicated CW operator, he tells me that he enjoys FISTS so much, that he is not far from his "Diamond Award". We joked about who would be the first to attain this award, but no bets were made!

MEMBERS – PROFILES

(Photographs Received appear in the FISTS Down Under Photograph Section of the Newsletter - Ed).

David Dunn VK3DBD / G3SCD – FISTS # 3756

One of my very earliest radio memories was, I think, early in the war, when my Father acquired a new aerial for the broadcast receiver. This was a strange looking object – it had a green ceramic insulator, from which protruded a bundle of thick copper wires, each about a foot long. I remember him bending these wires – presumably as per instructions – to form a shape rather like a chimney sweeps brush, before fixing the contraption just under the eaves of the house with a long wire hanging down, which then passed through a hole drilled in the window frame downstairs. I was probably four or five years old at the time. This was a lasting memory, but it set me thinking and asking questions about how the speech and music got into the Radio and what made them come through the air. The questions were seldom answered to my satisfaction! The BBC wireless broadcasts, were of course, just a part of normal life, especially in those war years, to keep up with the news.

My father was called up into the Fleet Air Arm soon afterwards and I lost my main source of technical information for a few years, a period of my life I remember very little of. Eventually he returned from wartime service in Australia, bringing with him amongst other interesting "toys" a simple Morse Code outfit, consisting of a pair of Morse Keys each on separate boards with a buzzer and a lamp attached. By means of a length of flex, we could connect the two together and send Morse to each other, from different rooms. Each Morse set had a printed card affixed, showing the letters and number in terms of dots and dashes – the worst possible way to learn the code, as I found out years later! This was my first introduction to Morse and we both actually learnt it from using the gadget, albeit in a very basic way. The other relevant item, my Father brought me on one occasion, was a real key from an aircraft. A key I still have and use regularly. I have only recently identified it as a Bendix key, which probably came from a B17 bomber.

My father was not really into things electrical but was always prepared to learn. Radio had of course "come of age" in his youth. He had a smattering of knowledge about crystal sets, home brewed receivers, exposed "swinging" tuning coils, grid leaks and bright emitter valves. But in the heyday of these, he was not affluent enough to persevere such an expensive hobby.

Just after the war, when I was around 12 or 13 years old, an uncle gave me a large collection of radio bits, that he had experimented with in his youth - 1920 -24, era. the early days of 2LO. Among this heap of components were ebonite panels, mahogany boxes, swinging coils bearing the logo "What are the Wild Waves Saying" brass terminals and bright emitter valves. But one prize possession, I still have, is "The Boys Book of Wireless" by Ernest H. Robinson.

(probably holder of the early call 5YM). This book explained the theory and showed how to build radios of that era. So some thirty years late, I constructed 1920 style wireless sets and succeeded to listening to Radio Moscow - but little else, in my bedroom late at night!

One of the features of living near the coast, was the regular breakthrough of Morse signals from Humber Radio, only a few miles away. This always fascinated me, and try as I did as I grew older, I never managed to decode any more, than two or three letters at a time!

My other big interest at that time was photography and after contriving a temporary job in a processing laboratory, I was called up for National Service in the RAF. I asked for a radio or electrical trade, but was allocated photography.

On eventual completion of Royal Air Force service and for the next 35 years photography became my living. In 1963, I took the Radio Amateurs Examination and shortly afterwards received my G3SCD call. It was not until afterwards that I met real Radio Amateurs. I never fail to be amazed how helpful and friendly these folk could be. (At that period, they were a little thin on the ground and rather a select bunch!) I have always tried to uphold that tradition and assist others starting in the hobby.

Like so many others, my early days of Amateur radio revolved around construction and modifying surplus gear. Lisle Street (in London) was the Mecca for surplus gear, but opportunities to visit were not too frequent (fortunately!!) It was here that I bought my first real communications receiver, an 1155n model, with the trawler (Fish-Fone) band and the 160m amateur band. Constant entertainment for me as I spent much of my spare time messing about in boats on the North Sea.

Transmissions from Humber Radio, the Skegness lifeboat and shipping all around the coast of Britain, especially during bad weather were of great interest.

My attempt at the RAE in 1963, was I think a result of listening to amateur transmissions and subsequently buying the little book called "Radio Amateurs Examination Manual". Much of which was quite beyond my comprehension. It was not a large publication and I remember thinking that it should be possible to learn it all and thus answer the technical questions even if I did not understand them. So it was to be:- no-one was more surprised than me when the pass slip came in the post!

I realised I needed Morse to get my licence, my knowledge of it, was already some years old and it was all I could do to even remember the letters. I bought a Morse record, marketed by one G3HSC I think and applied for my test at nearby Humber radio some four weeks ahead.. I copied the slow sending off the record religiously, it had to be played at 33rpm and 45rpm or even 78 if I recall correctly. Not exactly a Farnsworth method! Spending approximately 15mins each morning and perhaps half an hour or so at night, I just about reached the magic 12 wpm by the due date. Unfortunately the day of the test was not a lucky one. I was very tensed up, the professional operator at Humber was most understanding, giving me the opportunity to have a second go, when I completely lost the thread. He eventually, rightly and kindly, suggested I go and do a bit more practice! I sent off my 10/- postal order that same day for the next attempt. At the earliest permissible date (there was a minimum time limit, of either three or four weeks?) I presented myself at Humber Radio once again and passed without any great difficulty. G3SCD was issued in June 1963 and by that time I had a home built 160 meter transmitter, powered by a rotary converter for mobile use. The receiver initially a converter into the car BC radio on Long Wave. But although I made a few experimental Morse QSO's, which proved somewhat stressful, I spent most of the available hobby time constructing and experimenting, mostly with AM HF gear (SSB was just becoming popular). I seldom used the code until many years later, when I revived it, getting into some serious on-air practice and now find, it is the main thing which keeps me interested in Amateur Radio. There is still plenty of CW activity on the bands, "Mickey Mouse" SSB, is not so easy to listen to and the majority of CW contacts are with operators who have some of the pioneer spirit, remaining.

I hasten to add, I have no argument with Fone only operators, but I have formed the opinion that so many newcomers, buy a black box, vhf rig, call up a repeater, have nothing to say during a QSO, lose interest and often abandon the hobby without experiencing what "Ham Radio" is all about. A mobile phone would have been cheaper.

I still enjoy construction but of late it has been mainly in connection with experiments with mobile whips, tuning units aeralis and making morse keys and small circuits for test purposes.
My current equipment is mainly an Icom 746 and a TS 50s the latter a truly wonderful mobile rig.
Now I reside in Northern Victoria, Australia and enjoy almost daily QSOs with friends in England and around the World. 70% of these contacts using CW. The Internet offers an excellent backup and has certainly made our life here effectively much "nearer" to our scattered friends and relatives. I do not see it as competition to Amateur activity. Rather a complement to it. David Dunn, VK3DBD / G3SCD

Chris Thompson VK2MQX – FISTS # 9057 - Australian Newsletter Distributor and QSL Manager.

My interest in radio and especially CW, can be traced to when I was about 4 years old. According to my parents (as I can't remember, hi), my grandfather used to sit me upon his knee and we would practice sending Morse characters with a key and Audio Oscillator. Now aged 22, I use that same key (Hi-Mound HK-708) for my QSO's. Obtained my licence in 1998, but have only been active on the bands, for the last 18 months.

When I had finally got access to the HF bands, I spent a long time listening to on-air QSO's and practising sending and receiving before I gained enough confidence to answer a CQ. My first CW QSO was with George VK2DLF and he introduced me to the FISTS Club. I have been greatly assisted with my code skills by David VK3DBD during our weekly sked and also by Dave VK3FGE.

I mainly work 80m and 3528khz has become a popular frequency for VK FISTS members. As there is often a lot of activity on this frequency, I have found that there are quite a few non-members who recognise this and have even heard them calling CQ FISTS. Currently studying Environmental Planning at University, where my main interest is in the use of sustainable technologies and computer-based geographic applications.

80m FISTS Chat Net

A few members in VK2 have started an SSB Chat Net. The net will be on every Thursday, starting at 0930z on 3545khz. We hope that it will serve as a meeting place for FISTS members to discuss anything related to CW and arrange sked times etc. If you have any ideas for the net please send them to Chris VK2MQX.

Chris Thompson, VK2MQX.

Harley Francis John Culloty, (Jack), ZL1AJ – FISTS # 9095. (Previously ZL4GH, ZL1AZZ 11/9/1963)

Jack, as he prefers to be known in Radio circles, was born on 24/03/1921. Being one of our Senior Members he starts his story describing himself as a "Country Boy", who played with Battery Valve Radios, Dry Batteries, Generators, Milnes Units, Vibrators and Blue Gum Poles. My brother-in-law was a Mechanician in the N.Z. Post Office, and naturally in 1936, I obtained a Cadetship with the N.Z.P.O. Auckland where I learned Morse and how to dodge "Tramcars".

1940 saw me as a Signaller in the Territorial Army with 7th Medium Battery, however a year later I decided to join the Royal New Zealand Air Force as a Wireless Operator and trained at the Electrical and Wireless School, Wigram. In 1942 I was posted to Waipapakauri, later becoming N.C.O. In Charge, Signals, Evesham.

In 1944, I was posted to the Initial Training Wing, Guernsey Delta, as Morse and Procedure Instructor to Aircrew. Whilst at Guernsey, Re - mustered to Aircrew as Pilot Under Training (Fighter Pilot). Posted Taieri Grading School and soloed. Course 59. I was then posted to Whenuapai, Auckland, until course 59 returned to flying. Meanwhile I worked in the Radio Workshops on aircraft radio equipment.

August 1945, saw me manpowered out of the R.N.Z.A.F and so I went to stay and work on my parents farm at Pukeatea, near Te Awamutu. Between 1946 and 1963, I was mainly involved in farm work with some part time Radio Servicing.

It was then that I took an International Correspondence School course on Radio technology, later getting my licence and high frequency permit. Call Sign ZL1AZZ. A change in employment saw me doing electrical maintenance for the New Zealand Electricity Department at Arapuni. About this time I obtained my Cinematography Operators Certificate to become the sole operator of the Palace Theatre, Arapuni.

In 1965, I transferred yet again as Electrical Storeman to N.Z.E.D. at Claudelands, Hamilton. 1966 saw another change as I moved sideways into Electrical and Communications. It was at this time I started studying again for the Registered Radio Serviceman's Certificate, City and Guilds (Intermediate), Radio Telegraph Operator's Certificate 1st Class, all of which I managed to pass.

Further jobs saw me appointed as Communications Technician, N.Z.E.D. - Supervising Technician, New Zealand Forest Service and Senior Communications Technician with the N.Z.E.D. in Dunedin. I later passed the Advanced Trades Certificate in Radio Communications and became a Member of the New Zealand Electronic Institute and was registered as a Registered Engineering Associate. I ended my career as Technical Officer, Transmission with N.Z.E.D. in 1986 when I retired.

After retirement I visited both the U.K. and Ireland in 1989 and again in 1992, this time with a stop over in Canada. In retirement I have spent quite a lot of time out at my farm experimenting with Antennae. I have been very keen on contest operation and been in many winning teams on V.H.F. - U.H.F. - 40 and 80 Metres. My daughter Dorothy is a Ham - ZL1TXI. At present I am helping my grandson Tom Morris to obtain his certificate. Maybe he will do the CW thing!

Interests over the years have included - Duck Shooting, Fishing, Restoring Old Tractors (24), Old Stationary Engines (10), Vintage Broadcast Radio's, and Military Radio Equipment.

I am a member of Spam (Society for preservation of Amplitude Modulation), and have been President of the Hamilton Amateur Radio Club. I have been licensed for 55 years to operate transmitters in excess of 100 watts issued by Registry of Senior Wireless Operators. My other interest has been with Conservation of Flora and Fauna and I am a member Of the Queen Elizabeth National Trust (Lake and Land covenants). Jack Culloty, ZL1AJ.

Ken Begg, ZL1BEG # FISTS 9098

Born Ngaurawahia, north of Hamilton 1927. At a tender young age, moved to Feilding in 1930. Attended school at Manchester St, Feilding and the Feilding Agricultural High School. Discovered Morse Code at the age of 12, in a Boy Scout's Manual and practised sending flashlight messages to a mate at night! Played in the Feilding, Salvation Army Band and worked in the office of the Feilding Freezing Works.

In 1947, I joined the Royal New Zealand Navy with a mate from the office - Stewart McLeod (now ZL2ANI), both as Telegraphists. Served three terms at the R.N.Z.N. Naval Radio Station at Waiouru (where I first met Syd Sutherland, ZL1BRS - FISTS # 9013).

(Presume this was Irirangi Radio /ZLO, no doubt Syd will put me right - Ed)

Served on the following Naval Vessels - H.M.N.Z.S. Hawea, Tutira, Pukaki and Bellona. Played in the Naval Bugle Band.

After Naval Service, joined the Record division of His Master's Voice from 1953 to 1971, then self employed in own variety shop for 20 years.

Decide to sit the Amateur Examination in 1997 and passed. Amazing – I had not read Morse or touched a key for 44 years. Presently use a Kenwood TS530 with A.T.U. into a trapped dipole. Ken Begg, ZLIBEG.

OVERSEAS MEMBERS NEWS

G0HFX-Chris # 0236, reports on the recent weather conditions in the U.K.

Happy New Year to all you guys down under. Really enjoy receiving your FISTS newsletter. Yes, the weather has been very changeable and for many quite severe (by UK standards) with, of course, Scotland getting the worst. Many areas have had Floods, Torrential Rain, Biting cold periods, high winds, very mild, sunny days and all with very little time space between them. I've had a damaged TH7DX antenna (remember the picture with birds – photograph will appear in next month's issue - Ed) fortunately not too bad and salvageable.

For the AFS CW contest last weekend I put up a 80m inverted V dipole with apex at 70ft on the Saturday worked the contest on Sunday and on Monday the winds broke it well never mind it was only going to be temp install anyway.

Regards to all in ZL & VK

M5AJ0 – Mike # 7714, recently writing to Nigel, ZL2TX, enclosed a copy of the Duxford Radio Society's magazine. The Society preserves all types of World War II Radio Equipment and has a working station comprising of a T1154 transmitter and R1155 receiver said to have come from a Lancaster bomber. This magazine together with past North American FISTS newsletters is being passed around the ZL members.

RESULTS OF STRAIGHT KEY NIGHT – 3 November 2002

(FISTS members are highlighted)

Twenty-seven logs were received, and, going by positive comments received, a good time was had by all. The bottom end of 80m sounded like a Sunday evening in the days before TV took over our leisure hours. Band conditions in ZL were good and as in 2001 QRP stations scored very well, taking the first seven places. Heavy QRN in VK meant only one VK station active, unlike 2001 when several were involved. Propagation to USA was good, with QRM from the Sweepstakes Contest early in the evening. Helped by the Vintage QRP multiplier, **Barry ZL1DD** and his ZC1 chugged their way to first place overall, first vintage QRP. Good going for near sixty-year-old WWII technology. Second overall and top QRP Open was Jack, ZL1AJ, and at 81 years the most venerable entrant.

Third overall and second Open QRP, **Mike ZL1MH**, his K2 being top kit rig, helped by his mighty horizontal loop antenna.

Bill ZL2CD used his FT1000MP and WWII Jap Navy key to take first place in the Open class and eighth overall. **Ken ZL1AIH** with his Johnson Invader TX and HRO 5T Rx was the top (and only) Vintage Open station, ninth overall.

Kit rigs were well represented with three K2s and ZL1BAV's HW9. Bruce ZL1WB came on with the only homebrew rig, a tube heterodyne exciter running but one watt, taking second place in the vintage QRP, and Kelvin ZL3KB used a 19 set to make third place vintage QRP. Stay on longer next time, chaps. That multiplier will push you up the table.

There was a fine variety of keys used. Lee, ZL2AL turned his Bencher dual paddle key on its side to make it a straight key!

At 42 years Andrei ZL1TM looks like the youngest entrant. Are we the last generation of Morse operators?

A number of entrants have suggested that SKN be reduced to two hours. In 2001 several VKs and an FK8 came up in the last hour, and I think it is worth staying open for that extra hour for that reason. Remember SKN is an activity night first and a contest second, no shame if you want to leave early!

Thanks very much to all who participated and made it such an enjoyable night. All who send in contest logs will receive a certificate,...

Barry ZL1DD Thanks Barry for organising the event that was well supported and enjoyed by FISTS members

RESULTS OF STRAIGHT KEY NIGHT 2002

Callsign Class Score Key Rig Pwr Place

ZL1DD VQ 60 Marconi ZC1 5 1/1, **ZL1AJ** OQ 45 P&T TS870 5 2/1, **ZL1MH** OQ 42 Himound K2 5 3/2, **ZL1TW** OQ 44 Himound K2 5 4/3, **ZL2AOH** OQ 39 HK902 IC736 5 5/4, **ZL2AVL** OQ 38 P&T TS120V 5 6/5, **ZL2BBB** OQ 36 NATO K2 5 7/6, **ZL2CD** O 35 JA Navy FT1000MP 100 8/1, **ZL1AIH** VO 31 Ultimate Johnson 100 9/1, **ZL1ALZ** O 30 Military TS440 100 10/2, **ZL2RX** O 28 WT 8 A. FT101 100 11/3, **ZLIBGS** O 27 ZC1 TS830S 100 12/4, **ZL1HJ** OQ 26 P&T TS570D 5 13/7, **ZL1BAV** OQ 26 P&T HW9 5 13/7, **ZL1PC** OQ 26 ZC1 FT767GX 5 13/8, **ZL2AL** O 24 Bencher FT1000D 100 14/5, **ZL1BYZ** O 24 Himound TS430S 100 14/5, **ZL3CE** O 23 P&T FT101B 100 15/6, **ZL1TM** O 22 Sato TS570D 60 16/7, **ZL2ACJ** OQ 20 Westclox TS930S 5 17/9, **ZL2MUI** O 18 Kent IC701 100 18/8

ZL1WI OQ 14 ZC1 FT767 100 19/9, **ZL3CED** O 12 P&T TS440S 100 20/10, **ZL1WB** OQ 10 Various Homebrew 1 21/2, **ZL3KB** VQ 10 19 19 Set 5 21/2, **VK4BCM** O 9 P&T TS2000 100 22/1 VK, **ZL1BRS** O 7 P&T IC730 100 23/21

Explanatory notes:

O = Open Class OQ = Modern QRP VO = Vintage (valve equipment) VQ = Vintage QRP

Check logs from ZL2ADN, ZL1ARB

NEW FISTS AWARD

Created by Jack Bock, K7ZZR # 2656

“**NANFA** (Nightmare Alpha-Numeric Fists Award)

Unlike other FISTS Awards, it does not involve collecting numbers or keeping track of scores. All FISTS members are of “equal value”, no one group is favoured over another. It's a low pressure event, you can work it any time, any place.

The rules are simple and straight forward: -

1) Contacts must be 2-way CW on-air contacts made after Jan 01, 2003. Contacts can be made at any time, any place, at any speed and any band.

2) Contacts must be with a person or Club with a FISTS number, in any country or location.

The object is to work stations whose call signs fit into the squares on a grid. There are 260 squares to the grid. Now draw a grid on paper. Horizontally the top line reads 1 to 0. Vertically A to Z. Counters are the last numeral and the first letter of the suffix.

For Example: - K7ZR goes into Column 7 in the Z Row - WZ8C fits in the 8 column in the C Row - V31CW would be in Column 1 in the C Row - ZL2AOH fits in Column 2 in the A row, whilst ZL2TX fits in column 2 in the T row. WB9CIS/M3 fits in column 3 in

the C row.

Write the date (month / date) i.e. 1/12 (12 January) of the contact in the square with the call sign for reference.

To receive your NANFY certificate, send in your completed grid (filled in with the call sign and date) along with your log (containing the usual contact information and FISTS number) to Dennis, K6DF the FISTS AWARDS Manager.

Dennis Franklin, K6DF, 4658, Capitan drive, Fremont, California 94536 – 5448 (e-mail: - FISTSAWARDS@attbi.com)

There is NO charge for this award to Fully Paid Up FISTS Members.

If you are still unsure of the Rules and wish a photocopy of them together with a copy of the grid form, send two mint 40 cent stamps (New Zealand) to ZL2TX, or two 50 cent mint stamps (Australia) to VK2MQX. Addresses in Header. This is to cover copying and postage costs.

THE "Q" CODE

Some of our newer members who have just started out on CW may be confused when a station sends them a three letter code starting with the letter Q. If the three letter code is followed by a question mark (dit dit dah dah dit dit or oo _ oo where o is a dot, and _ a dash) then it is a note of interrogation or request for repetition of a transmission not understood.

Q – Codes are International and should be understood by anyone who uses Morse Code, but does not speak your language.

For example, you are working a station who is sending too fast for you and you wish him to slow down to 12 words per minute.

The Q – Code for Send more slowly (....12 w.p.m.) would be **QRS 12wpm**. Alternatively I am working you and I am under the impression you would like me to slow down, then I would send to you the question **QRS ?**

There are many Q – Codes of which only a few need to be known in Amateur Radio circles. They are useful and should be used when in doubt as they save a lot of time. Sending " Shall I send more slowly" takes quite a while, whereas **QRS ?** is very short but still gets the message across.

For our newer members I will list a few Q Codes over the next few months so that you can learn them and maybe use them in a contact.

Q – Code Question Answer or Advice

QRG Will you tell me my exact frequency (or that of) ? Your exact frequency (or that of) is khz (or MHz).

e.g. **QRG ? VP6DI** e.g. **QRG VP6DI 21.025 MHz**

QRH Does my frequency vary ? Your frequency varies.

QRI How is the tone of my transmission ? The tone of your transmission is

1. Good

2. Variable

3. Bad

e.g. **QRI ?** e.g. **QRI 2**

QRK What is the intelligibility of my signals ? The intelligibility of your signals is

1. Bad

2. Poor

3. Fair

4. Good

5. Excellent

e.g. **QRK ?** e.g. **QRK 4**

Note : This particular code possibly would not be used as Amateur stations use the RST reporting system

QRL Are you busy ? I am busy (or I am busy with name / call sign)

e.g. **QRL ?** e.g. **QRL ZL2AOH**

A few more next month.

EMBROIDED FISTS PATCHES.

Ralph reports steady sales of the new FIST Patches. A photograph of which appears below. Any "Down Under" members, requiring a patch are requested to contact the following enclosing the relevant amount of mint postage stamps as payment for the badge and postage. Members are reminded that there could be delays in receiving their badges as stocks are replenished from the U.S.A. (They are rather nice and well worth the small outlay if just as a souvenir – Ed).

AUSTRALIAN MEMBERS: - Contact Chris – VK2MQX – Address in Header – Enclose 5 x 50 cent Mint Australian Postage Stamps. Sorry folks - but the price has had to rise due to your increased Postal Charges.

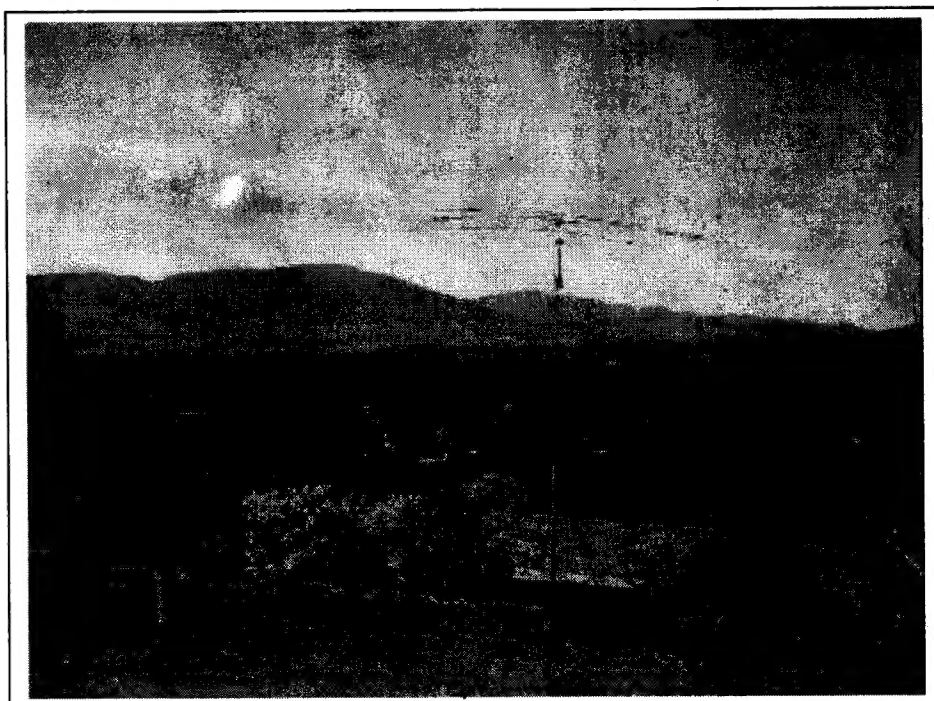
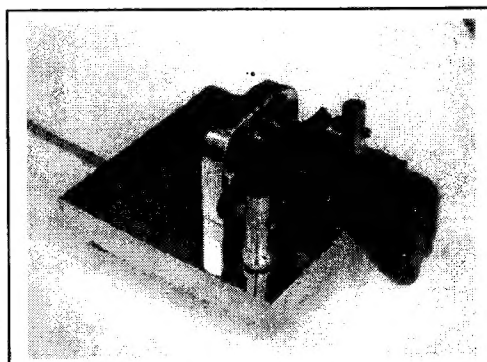
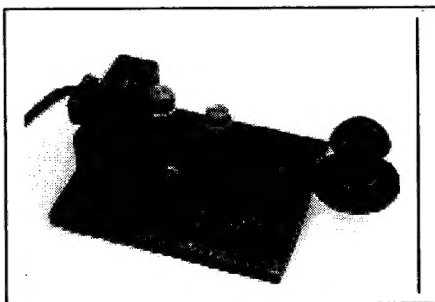
NEW ZEALAND MEMBERS: - Contact Ralph – ZL2AOH – Address in Header – Enclose 5 x 40 cent Mint New Zealand Postage Stamps. (Get in quick before N.Z. Post raises it's charges)

Top: David Dunn, VK3DBD / G3SCD # FISTS 3756, at home in his shack.

Middle Left: Bendix Key – VK3DBD.

Middle Right: Homebrew Paddle – VK3DBD.

Bottom: "I hear a signal from Yackandandah, Valleys of Gold" – The Antenna of VK3DBD.



FISTS Photographs (1)

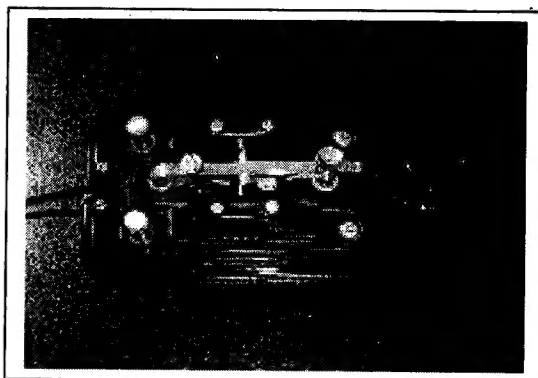
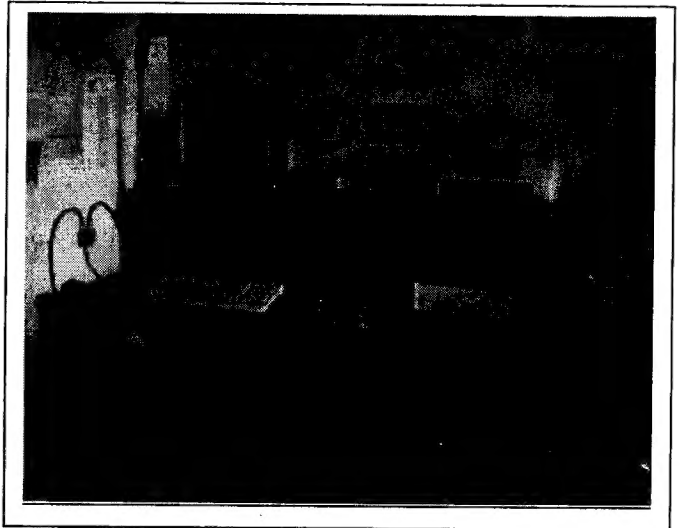
"Down Under" - February 2003

Top: Chris Thompson, VK2MQX, Newsletter Distributor / QSL Manager for Australia, in his shack.

Middle Left: "Gypsy" – a very photogenic fellow. Chris's best friend!

Middle Right: The neat and tidy "Shack" of VK2MQX.

Bottom Right: His Morse key – Japanese Hi - Mound Model HK708. (Quite a good key – I used one on a Ship I was on – Ed).



Blue enamel cloisonne /gold metal "FISTS CW CLUB" logo pin with tie-tack type pin-back 1" x 1 1/8" octagon \$1.50

NEW White enamel cloisonne pin " I (red heart graphic) CW", "FISTS CW Club" along edge; 3/4" diameter circle \$1.50

Rubber stamp of FISTS logo to use with an ink pad (not included) \$5.00;

Embroidered patch with key logo \$1;

The Art & Skill of Telegraphy book is currently out-of-print. It is being revised and should be available this summer.

ALL PRICES INCLUDE FIRST CLASS OR PRIORITY POSTAGE PLEASE DO NOT ADD POSTAGE TO YOUR TOTAL

***ORDER FISTS CLUB QSL CARDS?** For pricing info send SASE to WX9X at 1608 E. Lincolnway, Suite H - Valparaiso, IN 46383. A scan of the QSL card is on our FISTS Web page.

***ORDER A FISTS CLUB ID BADGE?** Our club badge is blue, with FISTS logo in gold and your name, FISTS number, callsign, and Int'l Morse Preservation Society in white. \$8.20 postpaid from The Signman of Baton Rouge, 879 Castle Kirk Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808.

***GET/SEND FISTS QSL CARDS Via BUREAU?** Send Self-Addressed-Stamped -Envelopes and FISTS member cards, for both DX and USA FISTS members, to Stan Reas, K4UK, at 1020 Long Island Dr, Moneta VA, 24121. On your SASE's put your callsign in big letters in the top left corner. Detailed info on how to use the Bureau and a list of FISTS who do not want to receive cards via the Bureau are on the FISTS web page or available from Stan by email (k4uk@rev.net) or postal mail upon request.

***APPLY FOR AN OPERATING AWARD?** For ALL awards, send the name of the award, a log of the required info and dupe sheet (check the individual award requirements) and your mailing info to Dennis Franklin, K6DF, 4658 Capitan Dr, Fremont, CA 94536-5448. *Do not submit QSLS.* There is no charge to FISTS members in good standing, but stamps are appreciated.

***VOLUNTEER FOR or GET A CODEBUDDY? W3GR,** The Historical Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club members are the volunteers handling the Code Buddy program. Contact them at Box 746 MS 4015, Baltimore, MD 21203 or email w3gr@arrl.net <w3gr@arrl.net> We need ELMERS, please volunteer to be a Code Buddy!! Code Buddy applications are available on line from a link on our web page <http://www.fists.org>

***GET MY PHOTO ON THE PHOTOPAGES?** Send a snapshot of yourself, with your face about the size of a quarter, to Ken Kott, W8ROG, 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr., Clinton Twp, MI 48038.

***RECEIVE THE KEYNOTE ON TAPE?** The KN is available on tape, free, to legally blind members. Contact Ken Kott, W8ROG, 44609 N Bunker Hill Dr. Clinton Twp MI 48038 or at ikott@compuserve.com

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MAY SPRINT : 2nd Saturday in May

Dayton Hamvention: FISTS Get-Together Friday Night

